妖かし恋奇譚
あやかしこいきたん
かまたきみこ
ぶんか社

妖かし恋奇譚

（あやかしこいきたん）

かまたきみこ

Contents

The Soul of a Doll ... 3
Midnight Theatre ... 43
Sleeping Beauty ... 85
Clockwork Innocence ... 127
The Missing Groom ... 159
Afterword ... 191

The Soul of a Doll
(FROM THE BALLET
COPPELIA)

CLACK
WE'RE DONE, OJOU-SAMA*.
*NOTE: A WAY TO ADDRESS A YOUNG LADY OF HIGH STANDING
LOOK, LOOK, MOTHER!
AH, WONDER-FUL. THE COLORS MATCH SO WELL
IT SUITS YOU VERY WELL.
OH, MY!
AMAZING AS EVER, SAKICHI-SAN!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU'RE GOING TO LEARN THE KOTO*, RIGHT? NOT TO A HAIRDO COMPE-TITION.
YAY!
WITH HAIRDO LIKE THIS, I WON'T LOSE TO CHIYO FROM THE RICE DEALER'S!
*NOTE: LARGE TRADI-TIONAL JAPA-NESE STRINGED MUSICAL INSTRU-MENT.

SEE YOU NEXT WEEK. I'D LIKE A NEW HAIRDO.
ME TOO!
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE A NEW ONE EVERY TIME.
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE ANOTHER APPOINTMENT.
SEE YOU AGAIN.
STOMP STOMP
WONDERFUL MAN..
TALL, SLENDER, AND TURNS YOUR HAIR INTO ANGEL WINGS
IT'S HARD TO FIND A GOOD HAIR STYLIST, YES...

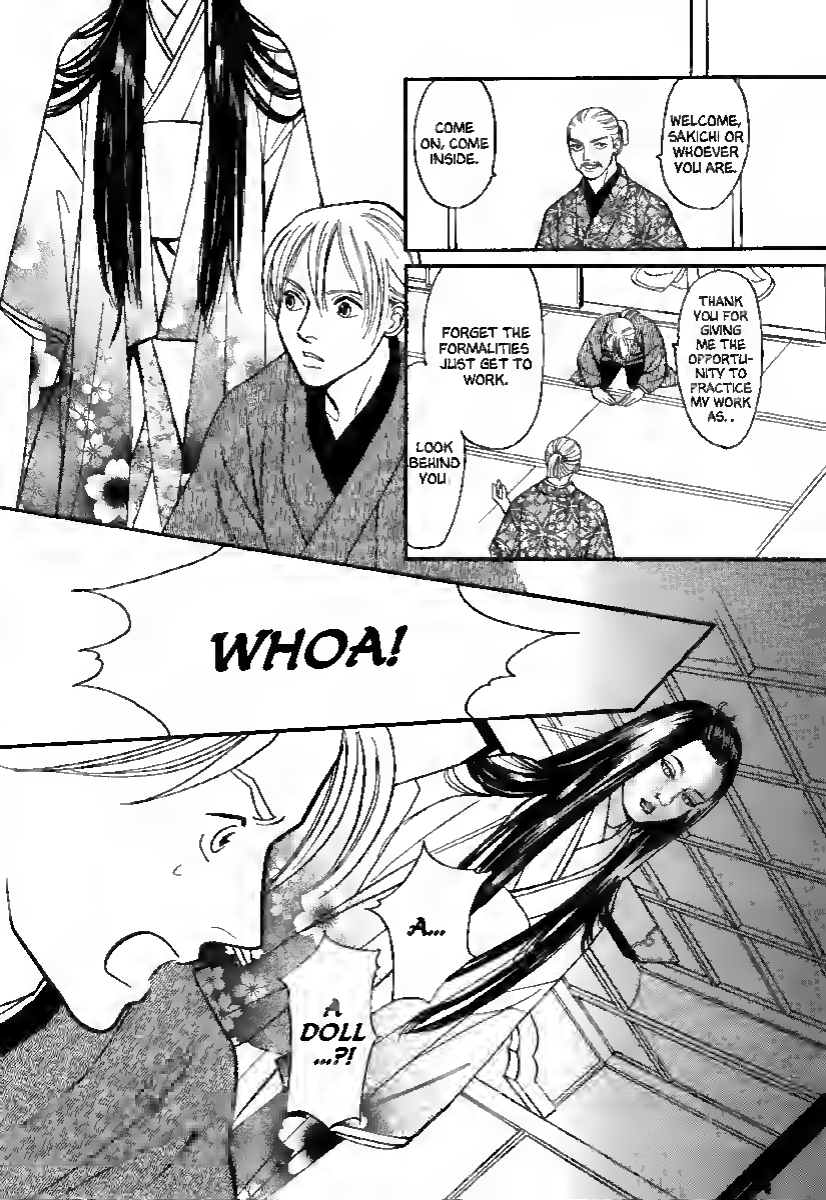
O-HARU!
HARU!
HARU!
AH!
WHAT?
DON'T SHOUT AFTER ME AT SUCH A CROWDED PLACE.

YOU HAVE HAIRS STICKING OUT, EVEN THOUGH I FIXED THEM ONLY THIS MORNING.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE A HAIRDO NOW? I'LL CARRY YOUR LUGGAGE FOR YOU.
I'LL CARRY IT.
NO! DON'T USE SPIT!
lick
AS A HAIR STYLIST, YOU'LL BE A LAUGHING STOCK.
SORRY MY HAIR IS SO UNRULY.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, HARU I KNOW YOUR HAIR BEST.
DID YOU THINK...
ABOUT WHAT WE TALKED BEFORE?
MORE IMPORTANTLY,

O-HARU...
YES...
ME, TOO... I LOVE YOU, TOO...
I DID IT!
GLOMP
HEY, YOU!
NOT IN BROAD DAYLIGHT AGAIN! HURRY UP AND GO BACK TO WORK!
YOU HAVE A BRAND NEW CLIENT TODAY, RIGHT?
YES. THE MAKEUP ARTIST SABUROU INTRO-DUCED ME.
I'M GOING THERE NOW.
HARU!
I'M GLAD YOU GAVE ME SUCH A GOOD ANSWER!

THE BEST CRAFTSMANSHIP... RAKUSAI-DONO..
A DOLL...
AS IF... IT'LL START MOVING ANY MOMENT NOW..
THIS DOLL IS JUST LIKE A LIVING HUMAN WOMAN.
WE'LL HAVE A REAL LIFE SHOW.
IT WILL BE THE TREASURE OF THE BUNRAKU* ACTIVITIES NEXT MONTH.
*NOTE: BUNRAKU IS A FORM OF CLASSICAL JAPANESE PUPPET THEATRE.
*NOTE: A PLAY DEALING WITH THE LIVES OF ORDINARY PEOPLE (I.E. NOT SAMURAI OR GEISHA, FOR EXAMPLE.)
YOU DON'T GIVE UP, DO YOU, YAMATOYA-DONO.
FIVE PUPPET MASTERS* ARE DILIGENTLY PRACTICING FOR IT
ON THE PROGRAM IS THE SEWAMONO* "KATSURAGAWA RENRI NO SHIGARAMI" AND SHE CAN HAVE THE PART OF O-HAN
*NOTE: 18TH CENTURY PLAY BASED ON A REAL EVENT THAT ENDS WITH LOVERS DOUBLE SUICIDE.
*NOTE: BUNRAKU DOLLS ARE ABOUT HALF HUMAN SIZE AND MOVED BY SEVERAL PUPPETEER'S DRESSED IN BLACK THAT ACTUALLY APPEAR ON STAGE.

WHAT?
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO SAY IT? THAT IS NOT A DOLL.
I, RAKUSAI, DIDN'T SLEEP AT NIGHT TO PUT MY HEART AND SOUL INTO IT AND GIVE BIRTH TO A...
WOMAN.
MAYBE IT WAS YOU WHO FUNDED THIS.
BUT I WON'T HAVE YOU UNDERESTIMATE MY FAME AS A MASTER OF MY ARTS.
AH, THAT'S...
MASTER!
HAIR STYLIST?
I DON'T REMEMBER CALLING ONE...
A HAIR STYLIST CALLED SAKICHI IS HERE.
I CALLED HIM. TO MAKE HER EVEN MORE LIKE A LIVING WOMAN.
YES, YES, I GET IT!
BRING HIM HERE!
TOMORROW IS THE MAKE-UP ARTIST, JINKOU... ETC...


WELCOME, SAKICHI OR WHOEVER YOU ARE.
COME ON, COME INSIDE.
THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRACTICE MY WORK AS..
FORGET THE FORMALITIES JUST GET TO WORK.
LOOK BEHIND YOU
WHOA!
A...
A DOLL ...?!

THAT'S NOT...
...A DOLL!
A DOLL'S... HAIR?
I'M HOME!
SHE WAS WORRYING AND WAITING FOR YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE COMING HOME SO LATE!
EH?
O-HARU?
I WAS SURE I HEARD THE WICKET GATE CREAK! WHAT HAPPENED?

*NOTE: SATSUKI IS THE ARCHAIC NAME FOR THE FIFTH MONTH OF THE JAPANESE YEAR
THE OWNER OF A KIMONO SHOP FINANCED THIS. THEY'RE TREATING THE DOLL LIKE A PRINCESS.
IT WAS A NEWLY-MADE BUNRAKU DOLL OF A GIRL.
SHE'S THE MASTERPIECE OF A FAMOUS SENSEI, CALLED RAKUSAI.
SHE WILL STEP ON STAGE IN MAY, SO SHE'S CALLED "SATSUKI."*
*NOTE: IN JAPAN, THE HAIRDO SHOWED THE AGE, SOCIAL AND MARITAL STATUS OF A WOMAN, ETC.
SIGH
SO... IN WHAT WAY DID YOU BIND IT*? PRINCESS-STYLE? YOUNG LADY-STYLE?
SPEAKING OF WHICH, THE PUPPETEERS MATCH THE DOLLS' HAIRSTYLES TO THE PARTS THEY PLAY, RIGHT?

THE DOLL MAKER DIDN'T LIKE ANY OF THEM..
HER STATUS WILL DROP WITH A BORING HAIRDO LIKE THAT!
ARE YOU TRYING TO RUIN SATSUKI'S BEAUTY?!
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I TRIED, IT WAS NO GOOD
THINK OF HER AS A LIVING GIRL!
MORE GLAMOROUS, MORE MYSTERIOUS...
I WILL RAISE HER TO BE A SPECIAL CREATURE!
SIGH
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
IT'S MY FIRST TIME DOING THE HAIR OF A DOLL!
BUT HE TOLD ME TO COME AGAIN TOMORROW...
WHAT A BIG MESS
BUT IF YOU DO A GOOD JOB, YOU MIGHT GET INTO YAMATOYA-SAN'S GODO GRACES

I HAVE TO START THINKING OF SUPPORTING A HOUSEHOLD, AFTER ALL.
YES... THAT'S TRUE...
AND I WAS SO SURE YOU'D BE DUMPED ...
DID A CERTAIN SOMEONE SAY YES'?
WHAT?
MOTHER!
HARU...
NO MATTER HOW MANY WOMEN'S HAIR I BIND . YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE FOR ME.
AAH, IT'S JUST FIVE HOUSES AWAY ...
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SEE ME OFF.
HEY! KOTAROU!
OASHI
STARE
...

SLIDE
THAT'S NO WAY TO BE-HAVE!
YOU HAVE TO STOP THIS!
BIG SIS! HUG!
SLIDE
SLIDE
SLAM!
Hahaha!
KOTAROU IS SO CUTE!
SOME DAY...
WE'LL HAVE CHILDREN, TOO..
I'M SORRY, HARU-CHAN
NO!
COME ON, UNSTICK
DASH
GO-
GOOD NIGHT!
Flare
THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY... HE SAID HE LOVED ME.
TODAY, HE SPOKE OF PRO-VIDING FOR A HOUSE-HOLD...
I LOVE YOU TOO, SAKICHI. YOU'RE SO GENTLE... AND DILI-GENT.

I UNDERSTAND YOUR HAIR VERY WELL, O-HARU.
MOON-SAMA... I'M SO HAPPY.
CROAK CROAK
UGH!
Eek... WHAT A BAD MOON...
IT'S AS THEY SAY, "HAPPY EVENTS INVITE TROUBLES." I HAVE TO STOP ATTRACTING THE EVIL'S ATTENTION.
KWIEE EEEE EEEE EEEE EEEE EEE!

DHAA-AAAA!
MHU-UUU!
SENSEI... WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE YOU DOING?!
A SOUL-INVOKING SPELL PASSED ON FROM THE ANCIENT CHINESE TRADI-TION ...
DON'T YOU SEE, YAMA-TOYA...
IN OTHER WORDS, BREATHING LIFE INTO THE DOLL... NO... INTO SATSUKI.
WHAT?!
ARE YOU SE-RIOUS?!

THERE'S A PROBLEM.
RAKU-SAI-DONO.
LET'S HEAR IT.
GLARE
QUIET!
THIS DOLL IS TOO BEAUTIFUL... SEVERAL GHOSTLY SPIRITS HAVE ALREADY GATHERED TO THIS MANSION.
IT'S VERY EASY TO SEAL SEVERAL OF THOSE AND PLACE THEM INSIDE AS A SOUL.
IN THAT CASE, WE DO NOT NEED SOME PUNY SPIRITS!
BUT I WANT TO MAKE THIS A DOLL TO BE REMEMBERED FOR DECADES, NO, CENTURIES FROM NOW.
WE NEED THE LIFE OF A LIVING MAN!

So.. what kind of man?
Wait a minute there...
Around twenty years of age, good at heart, someone well-liked.
By pouring in the doll all of his good nature and affection, it will start to attract good spirits
One day it will completely steal the life force of the man
And thus, a splendid soul will lodge itself into the doll.
...
Hmm...
This is getting out of hand.
splash

LET'S SEE THE FACE.
I WONDER IF I WILL GET APPROVAL TODAY?
YOUR MASTER IS SO DIFFICULT
ALL RIGHT.
CLACK
BEAUTIFUL.
WHOA!
STAGGER

SA-TSUKI, WE CAN'T!
FLAP
FLAP
H-HEY!
NO!
LET'S GET STAR-TED.
FLARE
WHAT AM I GETTING FLUS-TERED ABOUT?
AH... IT'S A DOLL...
SATSUKI HAS AL-READY CHOSEN A MAN.
NOTHING TO IT.
THANK YOU.
YOUR NAME WAS SAKICHI, RIGHT?
YOU HAVE A GOOD JOB, FOR SUCH A YOUNG MAN
OOOH... HOW GOOD.
COME NOW, LET'S TRY THIS KIMO-NO.
AH
YES, THAT MAN HAS HIGH STANDARDS AND LOTS OF OBSTINACY.
BUT WHAT WILL RAKUSAI-SAMA SAY...?

I UNDER-STAND.
MUH/
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY HE WAS ABLE TO CREATE A DOLL THAT IS ALMOST LIVING.
JUST AS YOU SAID,
COMING HERE EVERY DAY, I STARTED FEELING AS IF THIS SATSUKI HAS A HEART OF HER OWN.
SOME-TIMES, SHE SMILES... SOMETIMES, SHE LOOKS AS IF SHE'S SULKING.
Sa... kichi...

IT MUST BE SOME KIND OF FATE.
IN ORDER FOR SATSUKI TO HAVE A BEAUTIFUL LIFE,
I WILL GIVE MY LIFE TO BIND HER HAIR BEAUTIFULLY
Give your life,
Sakichi...
—
YES/
I THOUGHT I HEARD A WOMAN'S VOICE.
AH... NOBODY'S THERE.

YOU MUST BE TIRED.
ENOUGH WITH THE HAIR TODAY, HELP ME CHANGE HER CLOTHES
LOOKS LIKE MY SPELL IS WORKING.
ONLY BRIGHT SPARKLING AURAS
ARE GATHERING TO THE DOLL.
OKAY
IS HE THAT TIRED?
YES. EVERY TIME HE GETS BACK HOME, HE'S TIRED.
LOOKS LIKE HE'LL HAVE TO GO DO THAT DOLL'S HAIR SOME MORE.
IS THAT REALLY ALL RIGHT?

WHY DON'T YOU REST TODAY?
YOU'VE BEEN SUNK IN WORK FOR TEN DAYS STRAIGHT. YOU LOOK ILL.
I'M FINE. I'M JUST TIRED BECAUSE I'M NERVOUS.
BUT...
I'M WORRIED.
I CAN'T REST, THINKING YOU MIGHT COLLAPSE.
O-HARU...
SQUEEZE

WHEN SHE GETS ON STAGE, SHE'LL BE THE WHOLE TOPIC OF WHOLE EDO*
I JUST HAVE TO ENDURE IT A WHILE LONGER.
SATSUKI IS GETTING PRETTIER BY THE DAY, TOO.
I'LL GAIN THE YAMATOYA'S PATRONAGE. BESIDES,
EVEN IF IT'S A DOLL, IT'S STILL A JOB WORTH DOING
*NOTE: OLD NAME FOR TOKYO.
AH, I HAD FORGOTTEN HUMANS ARE SO WARM...
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE SO TENDER, SAKICHI.
I FEEL BETTER NOW, O-HARU.
I'LL BE GOING
AND A DOLL IS STILL A DOLL, EVEN IF SHE LOOKS ALIVE.

*NOTE IN JAPANESE PUPPET THEATER THE PUPPETEERS ARE DRESSED IN BLACK AND APPEAR ON STAGE MOVING THE DOLLS, USUALLY ABOUT HALF HUMAN SIZE.
Is he not here yet?
My beloved... Sakichi*...
RIGHT... NOW A LOOK OVER THE SHOULDER.
Sa-ki-chi~
I dressed as a courtesan for you today~
I TOLD YOU NOT TO TEASE ME.
A massage?
Hahaha!
NO WAY.
THAT MAN IS STILL HEALTHY!

O-haru...?
WHAT A SPLENDID COMB!
I WANT TO BUY ONE FOR O-HARU, TOO.
HE DOESN'T HAVE A LOVER, DOES HE?
WHAT?!
Who...
is O-haru...?
AND MY FIANCEE.
I haven't said a word.
What?
O-HARU IS MY CHILD-HOOD FRIEND.
COME ON, STOP USING THAT TONE OF VOICE!

SHE'S NOT AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOU,
BUT SHE'S THE SOURCE OF ALL MY ENERGY.
Hey!
Hey!
I GET TO STAY THERE HALF A MONTH AND DO ANY HAIR STYLE I PLEASE.
WHY NOT? IT'S A RICH MAN'S WHIM.
SORRY TO MAKE YOU TAKE A BUSINESS TRIP, HARU-CHAN.
IT WAS THE CLIENT'S REQUEST. THEY SAID IT HAD TO BE YOU OR NOBODY.
IT'S FINE. I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY SENT A PA-LANQUIN.
My butt hurts
IT REALLY MUST BE SOME RICH MAN.

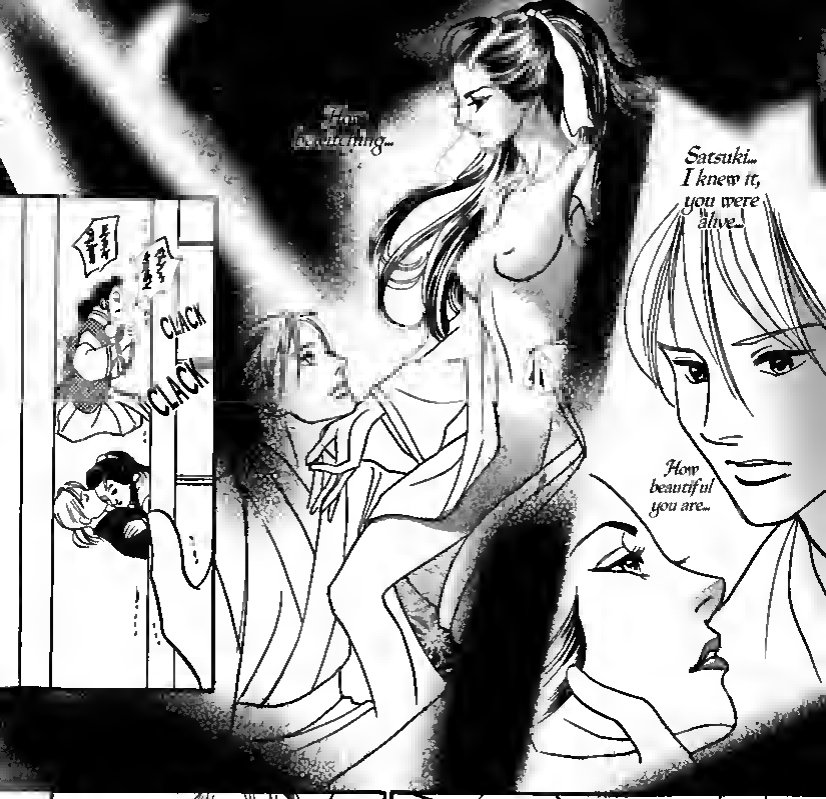
SUCH A JOB IN SUCH A HURRY.
I'M FALLING FURTHER AWAY FROM SAKICHI.
BE-GONE!
THE LIVING WOMAN HAS GONE AWAY!
SAKICHI'S SOUL, LISTEN!
SUBMERGE DEEP INTO THE DOLL'S CENTER OF THOUGHT.
BEAU-TIFUL...
YOU'RE BECOMING MORE BEAUTIFUL EVERY DAY...

I want you.
THUD
UGH
DIZZY
Sakichi...
I want...
WHAT HAIRDO DO YOU WANT TODAY?
SOMETHING TO MATCH YOUR NEW OBI*, WITH A CRIMSON COMB..
*NOTE: THE WIDE BELT OF THE KIMONO
CAW
CAW CAW
SORRY TO DRAG YOU, TOO
AN ACQUAINTANCE WANTED TO SEE YOUR WORK AT ANY RATE..
EXCUSE ME...
SO MANY CROWS TODAY THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING

I SEE. YOUR FIANCEE BINDS THE HAIR OF A DOLL
I WAS WORRIED. I DIDN'T WANT TO GO DO THAT JOB SO FAR AWAY.
YOU WERE SET UP.
HUH?
SOMETHING HAS CHANGED IN SOMEONE CLOSE TO YOU?
I CAN SEE AN IMPURE FLAME TRAILING BEHIND YOU
MAYBE.
THAT DOLL MAKER IS WORKING WITH A FALLEN PRIEST.
THEY MEAN TO STEAL SAKICHI'S SOUL.
HE MUST COME BACK HERE IMMEDIATELY AND MEET ME.
YES! I'M GOING TO BRING HIM NOW!
I DON'T GET IT, BUT IT SOUNDS BAD
HURRY!
PLEASE HURRY!

AH!
THERE'S ONE GOOD WAY TO DO THIS...
YOU WAIT HERE!
BE RIGHT BACK!
IT SUITS YOU, SAKICHI
A WHITE KIMONO IS SUITABLE FOR THE START OF YOUR NEW LIFE.
HOW EERIE, RAKUSAI-DONO..
NOW..
ENGULF SAKICHI'S LIFE INTO YOUR OWN BOSOM.
THERE'S NO TURNING BACK NOW.

Sakichi...
Sakichi...
Mine...
Together forever...
Share your life with me...


I'm touching...
Satsuki... I knew it, you were alive...
How beautiful you are...
CLACK
CLACK

EVEN IF YOU GET COLD FEET NOW, IT'S TOO LATE TO BACK OUT.
THAT'S RIGHT.
EGK!

W-W-WHOA!
THIS IS GETTING OUT OF HAND!
SAKICHI WILL REALLY BE POSSESSED AND KILLED THIS WAY!

Someone is calling me.
You are just imagining it. Come now, do not hesitate.
Embrace me,
and then...
Sakichi.
Sakichi.
forget about the rules,
and die for me, Sakichi sama!
SAKICHI!!

Startled
WAVER
YOU, WOMAN!
WHERE ARE YOU, SAKICHI?!
WHAT IS HAPPENING?
ARE YOU RAKUSAI?!
YOU CAN'T GO IN UNINVITED!
STOP THIS, RAKUSAI-SENSEI!
GIVE THAT MAN BACK!

SLAM
SAKICHI-SAN!
NO! LADY, HE'S IN THAT ROOM!
LET GO, YAMA-TOYA!
HURRY UP AND SAVE HIM!
CREAK
CREAK
NO!
I WON'T LET YOU KILL SAKICHI!
I'LL PROTECT THE PER-SON I TREASURE!

SAKICHI'S LIFE IS SEALED IN THE DOLL!
YOU'RE LATE!
HERE... GRIP THIS TIGHTLY.
A TRAVELING MONK TOLD ME WHAT TO DO!
SHAKE
SHAKE
IDIOT! IDIOT! YOU WERE ABOUT TO DIE!
HARU ...
WHY ARE YOU HERE...
UGH!

MAKE THE WOMAN DOLL HOLD A BABY DOLL.
THERE'S A GOOD WAY TO DO THIS.
IF YOU DO, SHE WILL DEVELOP A MOTHER'S HEART IN AN INSTANT.
IS SMILING...
SA-TSUKI...
OHH... OHHH...!!! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
OOH...
You're so cute today, Kotaro!!
Big sis!
HARU, SO ARE YOU...
WHEN YOU HOLD A CHILD... YOU LOOK VERY GENTLE.

I- YOU'RE THE ONLY HUMAN GIRL FOR ME, HARU!
DOING THE HAIR OF SUCH A PRETTY DOLL, YOU WERE TAKEN IN, RIGHT!
I REALLY MADE YOU WORRY BACK THEN. .
THAT'S WHY YOU WERE ONE STEP AWAY FROM LO-SING YOUR LIFE!
YOU'RE IMPOS-SIBLE!
SHE WAS LOVED BY ALL THE PEOPLE OF EDO AS THE ONE AND ONLY IN THE WORLD BUNRAKU DOLL WITH A CHILD...
AFTER THAT, THE DOLL AND THE BABY DOLL BECAME PART OF A SHOW WITH AN ALL-STAR CAST.
THE SOUL OF A DOLL
THE END

Ayakashi Koi Kitan

Chapter 1

Source: Mari
Translator: Mari
Proofreader: Lacaille
Editor: Enigma
QCer: Enix

Brought to you by:

Acrandria Scans
http://acrandria.net

Iskultrip Scans
http://iskultrip.marytaye.net

http://www.aerandria.net

MIDNIGHT THEATRE
(From the ballet
"Giselle")

Tan-ka-san
yo-yaa
TONIGHT.. I MARRY HANJI-SAN, A MAN FROM A MERCHANT FAMILY.
I'M MITSU.
THAT'S WHY TONIGHT... MY HEART IS BEATING WILDLY.
O-MITSU..
MOTHER SAID YOU CAN REST NOW
EH?
O-MITSU.. GOOD WORK.
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN IN LOVE WITH HANJI-SAN.

*NOTE: IN THAT PERIOD, LOVE HAD LITTLE TO DO WITH MARRYING, AND EVEN IF LOVE WAS INVOLVED, MEN DID NOT BOTHER TO MENTION IT.
...!
REALLY? YOU, HANJI-SAN... IN LOVE WITH ME*?
I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOU...
I WAS SO HAPPY WHEN YOU ACCEPTED MY PROPOSAL.
WE'RE IN LOVE AND THIS IS OUR FIRST NIGHT...
I'M SO HAPPY I COULD DIE!
<SFX: THROB>
<SFX: THROB>

O...
O-MITSU...!
THUD
O-MITSU...
UGH!
THROB
O-MITSU!
HOOOOWL

<SFX: THUD>
KYAAA!
THAT HURT...
HANJI-SAN, DON'T MAKE IT HURT~
KYAA! A GRAVE?!
HANJI-SAN, WHERE ARE YOU?
HUFF
WHY AM I IN A GRAVE-YARD?!
I-I'M SCARED, HANJI-SAN...

SFX SHOCK
NOOOOOOOOOO!
WHAT? WOMEN'S VOICES?
HEY.. YOU! NEWBIE!
HEY, YOU.. DON'T SCARE US LIKE THAT
AH, THAT SCARED ME...

YOU MUST CALM DOWN OR SOME MONSTER WILL SPOT YOU.
YOU'RE NOT A CHILD, SO GET A GRIP
peek
AH, WHAT SPLENDID KIMONO DID YOU DIE AT TAKASHIMADA?
WHAT A PITY IT WAS YOUR WEDDING DAY, WAS IT NOT?
THE SAME AS ME. LET'S BE GOOD FRIENDS.
YOU'RE DEAD.
WAH!
WAH!
ME?!
DEAD?!
YES YOU SEE. HE WAS CHEATING ON ME,
SO I WANTED TO SCARE HIM A LITTLE AND WENT INTO THE SEA.

BUT THE WAVES CARRIED ME OFF...
I REALLY DIED IT WASN'T FAIR I HATED HIM SO MUCH...
SOB
SOB
MY CONDOLENCES
IT MAKES ME FEEL BETTER TO TELL IT...
WE ALL DIED BEFORE ENTERING A HAPPY MARRIAGE.
SHE WAS KILLED BY A ROBBER THE DAY BEFORE HER WEDDING.
THAT WAS SO SCARY
THE PAIN, THE SADNESS, THE REGRET...
WE HAVE TO CONSOLE EACH OTHER.
BY THE WAY, WHY DID YOU COME HERE?
...

PRO-BABLY...
I GOT SO EXCITED IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR FIRST NIGHT
BECAUSE OF MY BELOVED KANJI-SAN...
THAT I THINK I DIED
IN THE MID-DLE...
OF THE FIRST NIGHT...?
IN OTHER WORDS...
THEY DIDN'T...
Aah!
WE ENVY YOU!
WE DIDN'T GO ALL THE WAY!

HEY, LOOK.
WHO?
AT SUCH AN HOUR?
HA—
HANJI-SAN!
HE CANE FOR ME!
UUH...
UUH...
O-MITSU...
DROP
HANJI-SAN!
COME BACK TO ME...
I'M RIGHT HERE!
TAKE ME BACK WITH YOU!

GREAT MAN!
WHAT A...
HANJI-SAN, I'M RIGHT HERE!
Take us home with you, too!
Ah.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
SWISH
WE'RE HUSBAND AND WIFE NOW!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
DON'T YOU RE-COGNIZE ME!?

HANJI-SAAAN!
I HATE YOU...
GYAA AAA!
O-O-MI-TSU!
O-MITSU, CALM DOWN!
IF YOU SCARE HIM, YOU'LL LOOK LIKE A MON-STER!
AH
YOU ARE SO LIGHT, O-MITSU.
YOU'RE NO LONGER IN THIS WORLD, AFTER ALL...
I'M SORRY.
SORRY THIS HAD TO HAP-PEN
WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?
NEWLY-WEDS NO HELPING IT.

I COULDN'T STAND TO BE AT HOME.
I WAS HERE BEFORE I REALIZED IT
O-MITSU! COME BACK HOME WITH ME!
HANJI-SAN!
SWISH
IT'S MIDNIGHT.
AH!
O-MITSU-SAN, DON'T JUST STAND THERE!
IT'S TIME. SEND THE MAN AWAY.
He can't see this!
O-MITSU...
C-COME AGAIN TOMORROW!
HURRY! TO THE BONSHOUDOU.
TAKE CARE ON YOUR WAY HOME!
NOTE BUDDHIST TEMPLE WITH BELLS.
I'LL COME AS MANY TIMES AS IT TAKES TO MEET MY WIFE.

<SFX: FLASH>
<SFX: DONG>
JIGOKU DAYUU!
IYO! WE'VE BEEN WAIT-ING!

AH, A NEWCOMER.
THANKS FOR WELCOMING ME.
WELCOME BACK!
I CAN MEET HANJI-SAN AGAIN TOMORROW.
BOW!
YOU LOOK AS IF YOU'VE JUST POSSESSED SOMEONE.
AH!
HEH.
LINGERING ATTACHMENTS ARE WRITTEN ALL OVER YOUR FACE.
DANCE UNTIL YOU'RE SOAKED IN SWEAT. IT HELPS DISPERSE GLOOM.
Y-YES!
AND YOU! YOU ALL ARE SO SOGGY, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO ATTAIN RESTFUL ETERNAL SLEEP!
NOW!

T-THAT'S RIGHT
CRYING IS NO USE. EVERYONE, LET'S DANCE.
WOW UNBELIE-VABLE.
THEY STARTED DANCING..
WRONG! O-SEN! O-KOU!
YOU'RE MAKING THE SAME MISTAKE AGAIN!
LIKE THIS!
YANK
OUCH!

I'M SHOWING YOU HOW IT'S DONE!
LIKE THIS!
AHHH, JIGOKU DAYUU-SAMA!
DIZZY
TOO AMA-ZING!
DIZZY
WHAT ALLURE!
SO...
SEXY!
CAW
CAW

O-MITSU
YOU WILL PRACTICE DANCING STARTING TOMORROW
ROO-STER..
IT'S TIME TO GO
BUT..
I'M...
I DIDN'T ASK FOR AN AGREE-MENT!
EVERY-ONE, TEACH O-MITSU WELL!
REMEM-BER THE MOVES PERFEC-TLY!
waver
waver
THE MOR-NING SUN..
LET US, TOO,
huff
REST UNTIL EVENING

A LANTERN...
EH?
sweep
sweep
WHAT'S THAT, ENJIN?
SOMEONE MUST HAVE BEEN HERE AT NIGHT.
IT'S OF SPLENDID QUALITY.
OH?
IF I HAVE TO GUESS... I BET IT WAS ..
He he!
THE HUSBAND OF THE WOMAN WE BURIED TWO DAYS AGO.
I BET THIS BELONGS TO THE YOUNG MASTER FROM THE KIMONO SHOP.
DETECTIVE-LOVING MONKS GO WITHOUT BREAKFAST.
YEEES!

NOOOO!
COPY THIRTY PAGES OF SUTRAS, IN CALLIGRAPHY!
CAW CAW
SIGH...
SIGH
I BET THE MAN WAS LONELY AND CAME TO SEE HIS WOMAN.
RIGHT, OSHOU-SAN?
AND THEN THE WOMAN POSSESSED AND KILLED THE MAN
Siiiigh!
POOF!
POOF!
AND WITH SUCH A MAN,
YOU ONLY GOT TO THE MIDDLE?!
DON'T SAY IT!
O-MITSU.. IF IT COMES TO THIS
YOU CAN JUST DRAG THAT SEXY MAN OVER HERE.
O-MITSU, YOUR HUSBAND IS SUCH A GOOD MAN
I HAVEN'T SEEN A GOOD ONE IN A LONG TIME.
AND HE CRIED FOR A WOMAN THE BEST

O-MITSU... I WANTED TO SEE YOU.
I THOUGHT OF YOU ALL DAY LONG.
ME, TOO...
IF YOUR FEELINGS ARE STRONG ENOUGH,
YOU CAN DRAG HIM INTO HIS GRAVE.
CAN I...?
IS IT POSSIBLE?
OOPS!
WHAT CAN WE DO...?
I WANT TO EMBRACE YOU...
AND YOU'RE RIGHT BESIDE ME, HANJI-SAN...
WHOA
OH, NO! I HATE THIS!

I WOULD NOT BE SO MISERABLE NOW...
IF ONLY OUR FIRST NIGHT HAD BEEN COMPLETED...
O-MITSU! IT'S TIME!
HUR-RY!
WOW!
BULL'S EYE. I WAS RIGHT ON THE MONEY.
I'LL COME... AS MANY TIMES AS YOU WANT...
O-MITSU...
AND THE DAY AFTER THAT!
COME TOMOR-ROW, TOO!
I SEE. A GHOST AND A WOMAN CANNOT HAVE MARITAL RELATIONS, BUT...
AND THE DAY AFTER IT, TOO!
KEEP GOING!
YOU'RE STIFF AS A BOARD! A WOODEN DOLL WILL DO BETTER THAN YOU!
CLUTS!

EVEN A GHOST CAN GET TIRED...
O-MITSU KEEPS DANCING LIKE MAD
JIGOKU DAYUU.. SHE'S SUCH A SPARTAN.
ENOUGH FOR TODAY
MEMORIZE YOUR NEW MOVES UNTIL THE BREAK OF DAWN.
HUFF
MY DANCE... IS TASTELESS?
HUFF
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE REDUCED TO JELLY
THAT YOUR DANCE IS SO TASTELESS!
HOW MANY MEN HAVE YOU TAKEN PRISONER?
JIGOKU DAYUU,
YOU'RE UP LATE INTO THE NIGHT.
EI-JUN?
I'M TIRED!
I CAN'T DANCE ANYMORE!

EVEN THOUGH I DON'T WANT ANYTHING, THEY GIVE ME EVERYTHING FROM LITTLE FINGERS TO THEIR VERY LIVES.
MEN ARE IDIOTS... FOR ME, THEY KILL EACH OTHER, GIVE UP THEIR FORTUNES,
YOU BRAT...!
MORE THAN I CAN COUNT.
*NOTE: "JIGOKU" MEANS "HELL" AND "DAYUU" IS A HIGH RANKING COURTESAN IN THE RED LIGHTS DISTRICT. IRONICALLY, SHE'S CALLED "HELL'S WENCH."
THAT'S WHY I WAS GIVEN THE NAME JIGOKU DAYUU.*
EXCEPT FOR ONE, ALL MEN WHO LOVED ME WERE UNHAPPY.
Ha ha ha!
O-SHOU,
NICE PUPIL YOU HAVE THERE. SEE YOU!
OH!
YOU!
WHOA!
WILL SHE DRAG HER MAN TO HELL, TOO?
—!
SO LET'S WORK HARD
O-MITSU-SAN, COME ON, GET UP! YOUR HUSBAND WILL BE HERE TOMORROW.

I'M SO HAPPY WHEN YOU COME FOR ME
THAT I DO MY VERY BEST AND WORK HARD.
EVERY DAY
EVERY DAY
YES.
JOGIKU DAYUU'S SPITEFUL WORDS.
I CAN EVEN TAKE
bOb
BECAUSE YOU COME TO SEE ME EVERY DAY, HANJI-SAN...
水仙の花の姿

AMAZING, O-MITSU-SAN!
YOU'VE BECOME SO GOOD!
WHO?
ME?
MORE OR LESS.
JIGOKU DAYUU,
YOU'RE PRAIS-ING ME?!
YOU WORKED HARD, AND SO QUICK-LY
BECAUSE YOU'VE GONE A LONG WAY.
I AM.
AMA-ZING! GREAT!
I AM PRAISED FOR THE DANCES I LEARNED AFTER I DIED!
I HAVE TO TELL HANJI-SAN!
HANJI-SAAAN!

YOU LOOK... HAPPY TODAY.
WHAT IS IT?
HA—!
THIS WAY, YOU CAN DRAG HIM INTO THE GRAVE WITH YOU.
THAT'S THE SPIRIT! YOU MAKE HIM COME EVERY NIGHT, SO HE GROWS WEAK.
COUGH!
COUGH!
HANJI-SAN!

YOU'LL NEVER MEET A MAN LIKE HANJI-SAN AGAIN.
MY OWN BETROTHED DOESN'T EVEN COME ANYMORE.
THEN YOU CAN BE TOGETHER FOREVEEER!
AND YOU CAN EMBRACE EACH OTHER TO YOUR HEARTS' CONTENT.
WHAT IS IT?
IS ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS HERE?
I DIDN'T NOTICE IT UNTIL TODAY.
HANJI-SAN HAS GROWN SO THIN AND DRAWN.
IS IT ALL MY FAULT?
NO, MORE IMPORTANTLY,
YOU KNOW, I WAS PRAISED FOR MY DANCING.
AH, THOSE DANCES.
WILL YOU DEMONSTRATE?
REALLY KILL THE MAN?
WILL THIS O-MITSU WOMAN

O-MITSU... I WANT TO BE BY YOUR SIDE FOREVER.
I CAN'T SPARE TIME FOR LIVING. SHOULD I JUST DIE NOW?
WILL SHE REALLY TURN
INTO AN EVIL SPIRIT?
HANJI-SAN... BUT THE SHOP...
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE SHOP!
THROB
MY CHEST... HURTS...
BUT IT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THE THROBBING THAT NIGHT...
SO,
HOW MANY DOES THAT MAKE?
IT'S LIKE... SELF-HATRED...

ROUGHLY AROUND 250 PEOPLE SO FAR...
NOT THERE YET.
AND OSHOU-SAMA FROM THE TEMPLE.
AH
JIGOKU DAYUU
WHEN I WAS ALIVE AND WORK-ING AS A COURTESAN AT THE RED LIGHTS DISTRICT
I MADE TOO MANY MEN SUFFER IN ORDER TO ATONE FOR THIS SIN.
"IF I WERE ALIVE, I WOULD HAVE DONE THIS, I WOULD HAVE DONE THAT."
YOU TEACH DANCING TO THE GIRLS WHO COULDN'T BE UNITED WITH THE MEN THEY LOVED,
AND THUS YOU SHOW THEM THERE'S SOME-THING WORTH LIVING FOR. I MEAN, BEING DEAD FOR
WORTH... BEING DEAD FOR...?
I HELP THEM BURN AWAY THOSE DESIRES THAT FILL THEM TO THE POINT OF BURSTING AND SEND THEM ON THEIR WAY
IT'S NOTHING SO GLOR-IOUS.

I WANT O-MITSU TO BE ABLE TO ENJOY TO THE LIMITS...
O-MITSU'S LIFE AS WELL AS O-MITSU'S DEATH...
THROB
IF I HELP A THOUSAND PEOPLE REACH NIRVANA*
I TOO WILL BE CLEARED AND REACH IT.
BUT UNTIL THEN...
THAT GIRL HAS NOT YET RECONCILED WITH LIFE AND DEATH.
I'M STUCK IN THE MORTAL WORLD
AND I WATCH OVER THE GIRLS.
ALL MY PITIFUL DESIRES...
I WON'T HAVE CHILDREN. AND...
HANJI-SAN AND I WON'T BE HUSBAND AND WIFE.
THEY WON'T EVER COME TRUE...

BUT... WHAT ABOUT HANJI-SAN?
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO HIM?
THE MAN I LOVE... THE MAN I LOVE WAS...
THIS SUITS YOU.
NO! I CAN'T AFFORD TO BUY SUCH A SPLENDID KIMONO!
THEN HOW ABOUT YOU MARRY ME AND COME TO MY HOUSE?
ENOUGH JOKING!
"I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE SHOP."
HE WASN'T THE KIND OF MAN WHO'D SAY THAT.
I WASN'T THINKING... OF HANJI-SAN... AT ALL!
WAAAH!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?!

SFX: FUHN
HEY! EVEN O-MITSU IS WORKING HARD!
AND YOU LOT AREN'T!
HEY... DON'T YOU FEEL SOME-THING MURDE-ROUS FROM O-MITSU-SAN?
DID SHE AWA-KEN TO DAN-CING?
TURN!
LINE UP!
YOU MUST DANCE PERFECTLY UNTIL THEN!
FOR THIS HIGAN* WE'LL GATHER ALL LOCAL GHOSTS AND HOLD A DANCING PERFOR-MANCE.
*NOTE: THE EQUINOCTICAL WEEK WHEN BUDDHIST SERVICES FOR THE DEAD ARE HELD.
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO MEET FOR TEN DAYS.
YES, HANJI-SAN. THAT'S WHY ..
I'LL HAVE TRAINING ALL THE TIME...
DAN-CING PER-FOR-MANCE?

I WANT TO GO TO YOUR SIDE.
O-MI-TSU.
HANJI... IS NOT GOING OUT TO-NIGHT.
YOU LOOK TERRIBLY ILL.
SLEEP A LOT AND EAT PROPER-LY.
O-MI TSU
THANK GOD
AND THEN... COME TO SEE ME DANCE.
LILH..
DEAR!
O-MITSU..
IT'S AN ORDER FROM YOUR WIFE.
NOW... I DANCE.
I DANCE AND I DANCE.
AND THEN...

WAVER
WAVER
THIS TEMPLE'S GIRLS DANCE.
IT'S THE HEIGHT OF EVERY HIGAN SEASON TO WATCH
HIGAN IS OVER
FINALLY.
AND NOW, THE MAIDENS WHOSE FLOWERS OF LIFE HAVE WITHERED
WILL PERFORM THEIR BEWITCHING AND FASCINATINGLY ELEGANT DANCE.

O-MITSU
AH...
WAAAAH!
OOOOH!

shine
swish
O-HANA!
SHINE
AH!
AMA-ZING...
EVERY-ONE IS SO HAPPY.
IT WAS WORTH WORKING SO HARD.
YUU!
SHINE
FLASH
GOOD WORK
FLASH
clap
CON-GRA-TULA-TIONS!
IT'S NIR-VANA!
IT'S A NIR-VANA DANCE!
SWISH
SWISH

EVERY-ONE..
O-MITSU... TAKE ME TO YOUR WORLD!
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
HAN-JI-SAN!
YOU CAME!
WAIT A MI-NUTE!
O-MITSU ...!
DON'T TELL ME...!
YOU LOVE ME TO DEATH, DON'T YOU?
I CANNOT.. MEET YOU AGAIN
I'M VERY HAPPY, BUT.. YOU SEE..
I FOUND A REASON TO STAY DEAD.

IN JIGOKU DAYUU'S PLACE, I WILL...
TEACH THE GIRLS TO DANCE FROM NOW ON
EH?
BUT I'M STILL FAR FROM A THOU-SAND PEOPLE...
FLASH
AH...
O-MITSU...
NO MATTER HOW MANY YOU SEDUCED WITH YOUR BEAUTY,
HELPING 250 PEOPLE IS QUITE ENOUGH, RIGHT?
THANK YOU, JIGOKU DAYUU!
DEAR, I'M GOING AHEAD OF YOU.
YES... TAKE CARE.

I DIDN'T MAKE HIM UNHAPPY...
THE ONE AND ONLY MAN I TRULY LOVED
IT'S ENOUGH
TO REMEMBER ME FROM TIME TO TIME.
MY BELOVED HANJI-SAN...
SO HARD-WORKING AND RELI-ABLE...
AHH, JIGOKU DAYUU REACHED NIRVANA
SHOULD I GO, TOO?
IT WAS A GOOD DANCE.
DO YOUR BEST!
POOF!
MIS-TER.
YOUR WIFE IS A STRONG WOMAN.

SOB
SOB
HEY, YOU!
MY CONDOLENCES YOU COULDN'T COMPLETE YOUR FIRST NIGHT TOGETHER
YEAH
I HAVE TO DO MY BEST, TOO.
EVERYONE!
STOP CRYING! IT'S MIDNIGHT!
I hate everything!
I DIED OF ILLNESS BEFORE THE CEREMONY!
I hate him!
MY HUSBAND WAS CHEATING ON ME!
DING
DONG
GATHER AT THE BELL TOWER!
LINE UP!

*NOTE JAPANESE CLASSICAL DRAMA THEATER
AND NOW, UNFORTUNATE MAIDENS,
WELCOME BACK, O-MITSU-SAMA!
FROM TODAY ON, THE WORLD IS KABUKI*!
WE'LL WORK EXTREMELY HARD WITH NO HOLDING BACK!
HEY, EIJUN... WOMEN ARE SCARY.
MEN WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO HOLD A CANDLE TO THEM.
YOU CLUTZ! YOU DO IT LIKE THIS!
GYAH! I'M SORRY, O-MITSU-SAMA!

Midnight Theatre * The End

Ayakashi Koi Kitan

Chapter 2

Source: Mari
Translator: Mari
Proofreader: Lacaille
Editor: Enigma
QCer: Enix

Brought to you by:

Acrandria Scans
http://acrandria.net

Iskultrip Scans
http://iskultrip.maryfaye.net

http://www.aerandria.net

SLEEPING BEAUTY
(From the ballet "Sleeping Beauty")

FIRE!
DING
DONG
NAGA-SAWA-SAMA'S MANSION IS ON FIRE!
LOOK! THERE'S A FIRE OVER THE RIVER!
AGAIN? FIRES START ALL THE TIME THERE.
GOROU-SAN... IS HE ALL RIGHT?
BRING THE HOUSE DOWN BEFORE THE FIRE CATCHES ON!
THE WIND IS STRONG! BE CARE-FUL!
THE CIVIL FIREMEN BACKUP IS HERE!

*NOTE: DAIMYO IS A FEUDAL LORD IN THAT ERA IN JAPAN.
*NOTE: A KIND OF TONSURED MONSTER, LIKE THE ONE IN THE PICTURE
IS HE ALL RIGHT—?
WHAT DO YOU THINK NYUU-DOU-SAN*2
O-YUKI—
ISN'T YOUR BOY-FRIEND A CIVIL PO-LICEMAN?
NOT IN CASES OF FIRE IN DAIMYO* MAN-SIONS.
WHAT, DON'T YOU KNOW?
WHEN THE FIRE IS A BIG ONE,
EVEN NORMAL PEOPLE ARE BROUGHT IN TO HELP.
GOROU-SAN...
GO HOME! THERE'S STILL SEWING TO BE DONE!
UH
ROAR
WE MUST HURRY AND HELP...
IT WAS SURROUNED BY FLAMES... MAYBE BEYOND SAVING NOW
I DID!
ARE YOU SURE YOU SAW IT?
AN OLD PERSON WAS WAVING A HAND RIGHT HERE.

HURRY
HURRY..
HELP..
GRAB
CRACK
CRACK
GOROU-SAN!
GOROU-SAN!

GOROU-SAN!
SLIDE
OH, NO...
NO, NO, NO, NO! DON'T DIE!
O-YUKI -
WHO TOLD YOU .. I WAS HERE?
AH, HE WON'T DIE OF A SIMPLE BURN ON THE ARM.
SCRAT-CHES? BUT HE'S IN BED...
AH, EHM .. IT'S FINE. THEY'RE JUST SCRATCHES
NOOO!
HMP
THE DOCTOR THREW IN THE TOWEL.
BUT, EVEN SO... HE CAN'T GET UP
THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU NOT TO TELL HER!

I COULDN'T SAVE HER.
THERE'S THAT GRANNY, TOO...
NO SUCH THING !!
I LOST CONSCIOUSNESS IN THE FIRE AND NOW I'M IN BED AND I BET BY NOW ALL MY COMRADES ARE CALLING ME A COWARD.
Whine Whine
WELL NOW, TAKE YOUR TIME, O-YUKI-SAN.
WE TOLD YOU SO MANY TIMES. THER WAS NO SUCH WOMAN THERE...
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WERE OVERRUN BY SEWING ORDERS THIS MONTH?
O-YUKI...
HOW LONG WILL YOU STAY HERE?
WAS THAT SO..
HELP...
AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M FINE. THE BOSS EVEN WAS SO GOOD TO LET ME LIE IN HIS HOUSE.
I WORRY ABOUT YOU—
BUT

HEY!
YOU'RE SO UNRELIABLE.
CAN'T BE HELPED.
WHERE ARE YOU...
I LOST YOU FROM SIGHT AGAIN...
HURRY... HELP...
HURTS!

IT'S WHERE THAT OLD WOMAN SQUEEZED ME WITH HER IRON GRIP DURING THE FIRE.
SINCE I WOKE UP... IT SOME-TIMES HURT
NO... IT'S NOT THE BURN...
I'M SORRY THE BURN...
HELP!
HURRY!
SFX: TWITCH TWITCH
M-MY COMRADES WILL MAKE FUN OF ME!
GET WELL SOON! ♡
IT'S GETTING COLD
PULL
THANKS, O-YUKI
BUT I'M STUCK HERE...
HMPF!
HEHEH!
LIKE THIS!
MAKES YOU WARM! ♡

I'M WARM NOW, SO RELAX AND GO BACK TO WORK.
BUT...
WHAT?
DO NOT USE ANY SHORTCUTS WHATSOEVER UNTIL YOU GET TO YOUR DELIVERY DESTINATION ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR MISHAPS WITH STRANGE KAPPA AND ONE-EYED MONSTERS AND WHAT-NOT
I-I'LL BE FINE! YOU'RE RUDE!
IF A KAPPA STARTS INVITING YOU ASTRAY, REFUSE FIRMLY AND SAY YOU'RE VERY BUSY WITH WORK.
SORRY TO INTRUDE!
AH, LEAVING ALREADY?
I'll drink this.
SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS
WHAT? DID SHE SEE A KAPPA AGAIN? YUKI-SAN IS SO STRANGE.

SHE ALWAYS SPACES OUT.
HE CAN'T GET UP.
SHE SEES RIDICULOUS ILLUSIONS, LIKE MONSTERS AND WHATNOT...
AND THAT LEFT HAND IT WORRIES ME.
I FORGOT THE KIMONO I MADE!
I WAS SUPPOSED TO DELIVER IT THE TAWARAYA!
I'VE BEEN TO THIS AREA SEVERAL TIMES, BUT...
I LOST MY WAY...
POP
AH, KAPPA*!
SAY, DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE TAWARAYA IS?
shake shake
LLL
APPROACH
LOOM

KUWA!
HURRY!
HURRY!
FOUND YOU!
FOUND YOU...
WHAT WAS THAT...?
SHE WAS RUNNING IN SUCH A TERRIBLE STATE.
AH!
*NOTE. AS IF IN ADDRESSING A PRIEST
FATHER*! DO YOU KNOW OF A MANSION NAMED TAWARA-YA NEARBY?
I GOT LOST...
FINALLY...
SOMEONE FOUND ME.
SMILE

IT WAS RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES.. THANK YOU!
OH, MY!
UGH ...
Coming in!
GO-ROU!
FOUND YOU...
FOUND YOU...
UGH!
YOU EMBRACED ANOTHER GIRL, DIDN'T YOU!
UGH ...
ODIOUS!

AAH!
COME WITH ME.
I WON'T LET YOU ESCAPE ANY-MORE
MY ARM IS TORN TO PIE-CES!
GOROU, GET A GRIP!
AHHHH!
GO-ROU!
EXCUSE ME!

SILENCE
THE YOUNG LADY'S KIMONO IS DONE!
EXCUSE ME!
KIMONO DELIVERY!
IS SOME-BODY HERE?
THIS IS THE KIMONO YOU OR-DERED.
IS THAT SO.
AH, PLEASE...
YOUR YOUNG LADY'S KIMONO IS...
run run
AH... HOW CUTE IT LOOKS...
GORGEOUS, FEMININE KIMONO...

THE YOUNG LADY IS ILL.
SHE'S BEEN BEDRIDDEN FOR YEARS NOW.
W-WHAT HAPPENED ...?!
IS SHE ALL RIGHT?
DRIP
DRIP
YOUNG LADY!!
BED-RIDDEN FOR YEARS...?
BUT SHE ORDERED A KIMONO...?
IT'S SUCH A GLOOMY MANSION ...
WAS TAWARA-YA ALWAYS THIS DARK ...?
SOMEHOW... THE KIMONO, TOO, IS A THING FROM A LONG TIME AGO
ary
ary

PLEASE, YOU ARE YOUNG
YOU GO AND SHOW THIS KIMONO TO THE YOUNG LADY
MADAM, THIS LADY HAS BROUGHT OUR YOUNG LADY'S KIMONO
AH, MY, MY..
OPEN
COME IN, COME IN, COME IN
PLEASE, MEET MY DAUGHTER.

CAUGHT A SLEEPING ILLNESS.
MY DAUGHTER
THE YOUNG LADY
SHE HAS NOT AWAKENED IN A LONG TIME NOW

IN THE BLOSSOM OF HER YOUTH AND SO BEAUTIFUL... SHE EVEN HAD MARRIAGE PROPOSALS FROM OTHER DAIMYO HOUSES.
AND WE HAVE TO REFUSE THEM ALL WHEN SHE'S LIKE THIS.
THIS
IS SOMETHING WE ARE EMBARRASSED TO SHOW TO A GUEST.
IS IT... SOME SORT OF ILLNESS?
WHAT DID THE DOCTORS SAY?
AT FIRST...
IT WAS JUST SADNESS BECAUSE OF HER HEARTBREAK OVER HER BELOVED TAKAYOSHI-SAMA.
SHE CRIED FOR SEVERAL WEEKS AND ONE DAY... SHE FELL ASLEEP... ONE YEAR, THEN ANOTHER...
THREE YEARS...
WE TRIED DOCTORS, AND PRAYERS, AND SHE DIDN'T WAKE UP...
EMPTY DAYS JUST KEEP PASSING FOR HER...

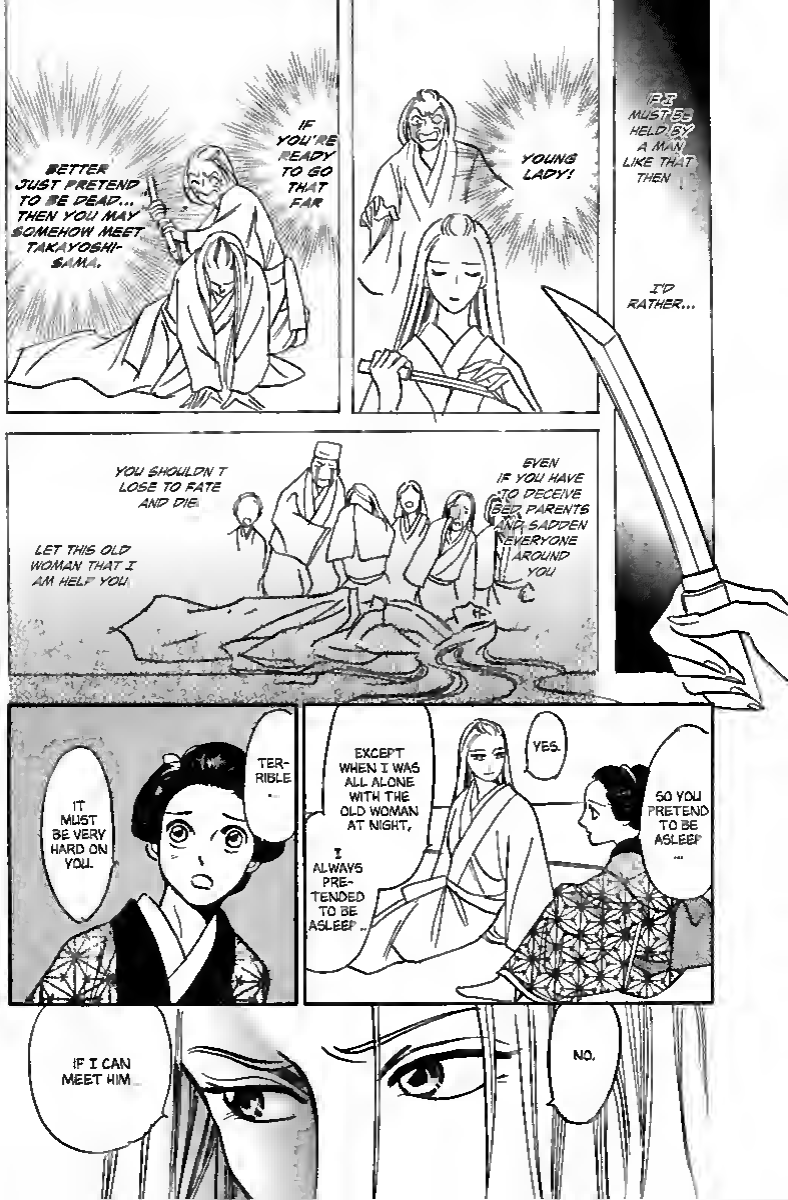
SUCH A YOUNG AND PRETTY LADY..
WHAT A SHAME.
IF SHE DRESSED HERSELF IN THIS GALA KIMONO, BOUND HER HAIR IN A BEAUTIFUL STYLE...
AND WALKED THROUGH THE CITY, HOW MANY YOUNG GENTLE-MEN WOULD TURN THEIR HEADS TO STARE?
WE'LL BRING SWEETS NOW, SO...
PLEASE, SPEND SOME TIME WITH MY DAUGH-TER
I'M SO HAPPY WE HAVE SUCH A CUTE GUEST.
JUST SO, MADAM!
GOROU!

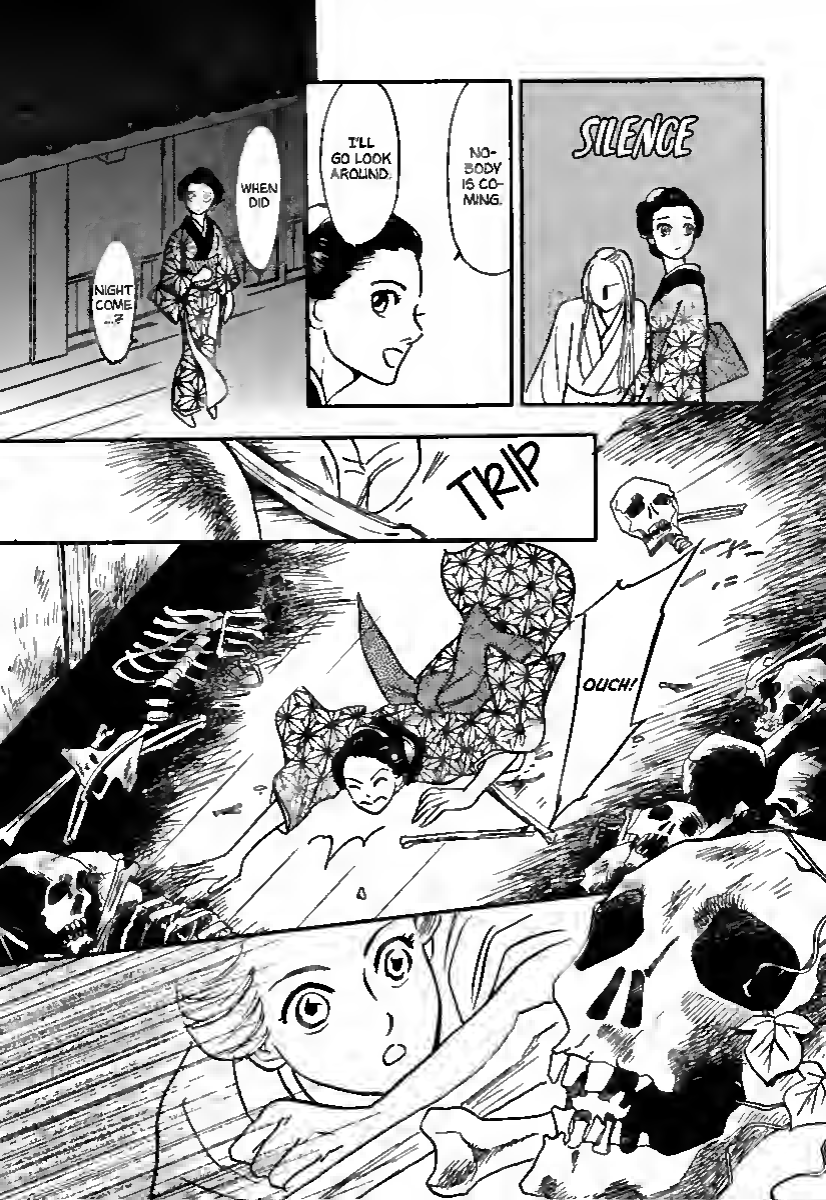
SENSEI, IS HE GOING TO DIE?!
GO-ROU!
GORDU, HOLD ON!
HOW MYSTE-RIOUS.
HIS BREATH-ING HAS STOPPED, BUT...
THE HEART STILL SEEMS TO BE FAINTLY BEATING.
LET ME GO!
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?!
LET YOU GO...?
NOT NOW... GEH-GEH-GEH!

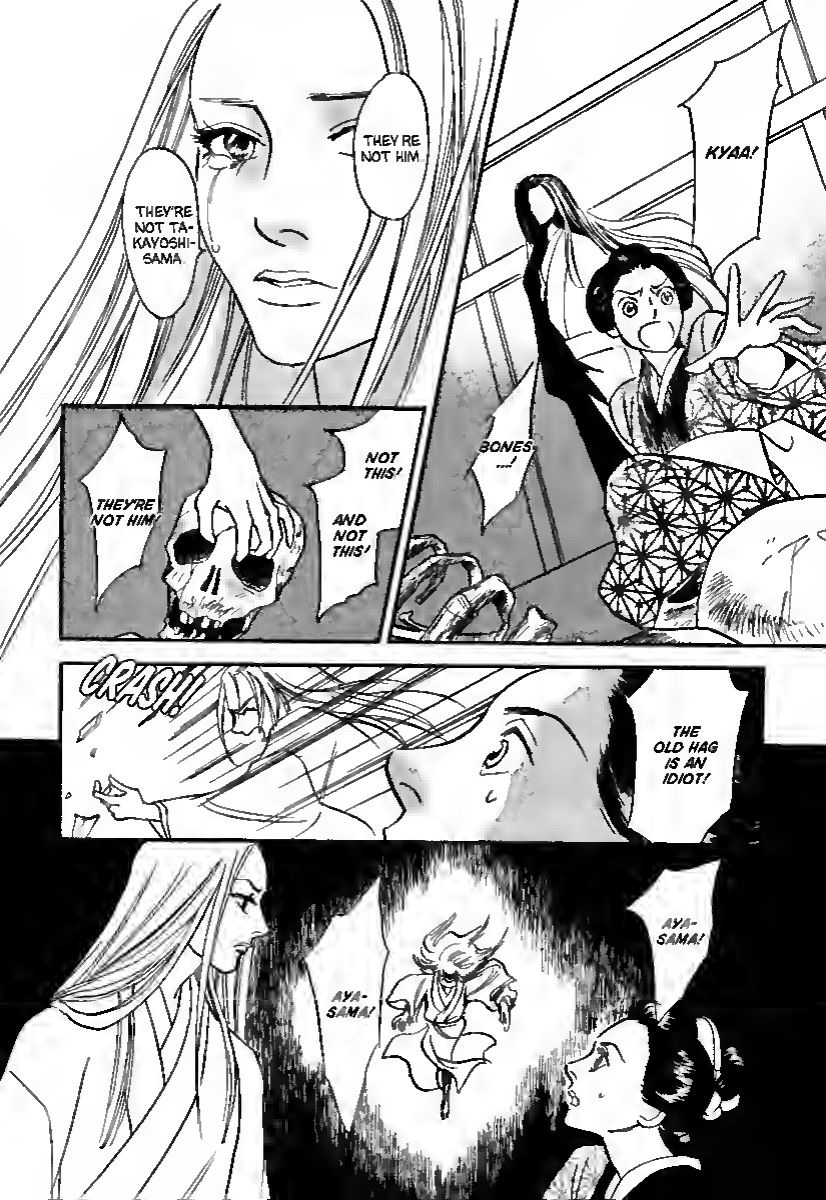
NOBODY'S HERE NOW
YOU DON'T MOVE.
MUST BE TIRING
SILENCE
I'LL NEVER LET YOU GO!
WON'T YOU TRY ON THE KIMONO?
I SAW IT VERY WELL.
WHEN WE PRAISED YOU JUST NOW, YOU LOOKED HAPPY
YOU'RE PRETENDING TO BE ASLEEP BECAUSE YOU HATE THE MARRIAGE PROPOSALS YOUR PARENTS CHOOSE FOR YOU, RIGHT?
I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL... THE FIRST LOVE IS HARD TO FORGET
MY NAME IS YUKI.
I'M .. AYA.

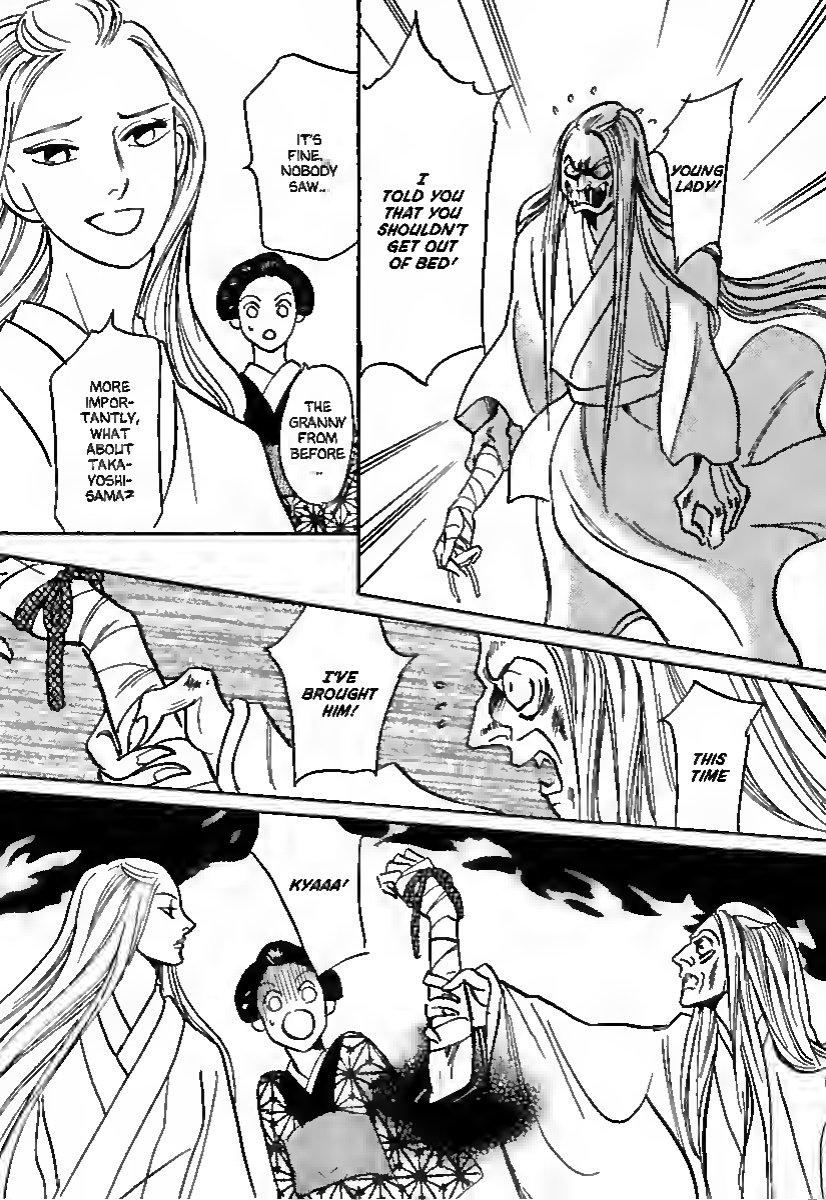
TAKA-YOSHI-SAMA...
HIS FATHER HAD TO PERFORM HARAKIRI
BE-CAUSE OF A CRIME HE DIDN'T COMMIT.
HIS HOUSE WAS RUI-NED.
GIVE UP TAKAYOSHI-SAMA
HE HAS BEEN EXILED TO A LAND FAR AWAY.
NO!
NO!
AND YOU WILL BE MARRIED TO ANO-THER
LET ME SEE HIM JUST ONCE!
AT LEAST LET ME TELL HIM GOODBYE!
WHERE IS TAKA-YOSHI-SAMA?
I WANT TO DIE!
THROB

I WANT AYA
DO SOMETHING, DAD! YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE SHOGUN'S COUNCIL, RIGHT?
THAT INCIDENT WITH THE CRIME...
BUT THAT WAS ALL A STRATEGY.
I HAVE SOMEONE I LOVE, TOO...
IF SUCH A THING HAPPENED, IT WOULD BE TOUGH
IT WAS ALL A PLOT BY THE SON OF A DAIMYOU WHO LIKED ME AND USED HIS POWER TO CREATE IT
I'LL NEVER... DON'T
TAK YOSHI-SAMA... HOW COULD THEY DO THAT TO YOU...
THAT COWARDLY MAN IS OUT OF THE QUESTION
NOW AYA-DONO IS MINE.
I CAN'T ESCAPE ANYMORE..


BETTER JUST PRETEND TO BE DEAD... THEN YOU MAY SOMEHOW MEET TAKAYOSHI-SAMA.
IF YOU'RE READY TO GO THAT FAR
YOUNG LADY!
IF IT MUST BE HELD BY A MAN LIKE THAT THEN
I'D RATHER...
YOU SHOULDN'T LOSE TO FATE AND DIE.
LET THIS OLD WOMAN THAT I AM HELP YOU
EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO DECEIVE HER PARENTS AND SADDEN EVERYONE AROUND YOU
IT MUST BE VERY HARD ON YOU.
TER-RIBLE...
EXCEPT WHEN I WAS ALL ALONE WITH THE OLD WOMAN AT NIGHT,
I ALWAYS PRE-TENDED TO BE ASLEEP.
YES.
SO YOU PRETEND TO BE ASLEEP...
IF I CAN MEET HIM...
NO.


WHEN DID NIGHT COME...?
I'LL GO LOOK AROUND.
NOBODY IS COMING.
SILENCE
TRIP
OUCH!


KYAA!
BONES...!
NOT THIS!
AND NOT THIS!
THEY'RE NOT HIM!
THEY'RE NOT TA-KAYOSHI-SAMA.
THEY'RE NOT HIM.
CRASH!!
THE OLD HAG IS AN IDIOT!
AYA-SAMA!
AYA-SAMA!


IT'S FINE. NOBODY SAW..
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT ABOUT TAKAYOSHI-SAMA?
THE GRANNY FROM BEFORE..
I TOLD YOU THAT YOU SHOULDN'T GET OUT OF BED!
YOUNG LADY!
I'VE BROUGHT HIM!
THIS TIME
KYAAA!

STOP!
I KNOW THIS MAN!
COME HERE NOW!
MY... MY HAIR-BAND!
GO-ROU?!
BUT I COULDN'T BRING MORE THAN HIS ARM!
YOU... ARE YOU AFTER TAKAYOSHI-SAMA?!
WHAT ?!
I'VE SEARCHED FOR HIM IN AYA-SAMA'S PLACE.
DRAG DRAG
I WON'T GIVE HIM TO YOU... HE'S AYA-SAMA'S TREASURE...

EEEH!
STAY AWAY, YOU LOWLY GIRL!
GO-ROU!
DRAG
AYA-SAMA... TAKAYOSHI-SAMA WAS IN A SECLUDED ZEN-TEMPLE OUTSIDE OF EDO.
I LEARNED THAT HE WOULD PASS RIGHT IN FRONT OF THIS MANSION.
THE EXILED TAKAYOSHI-SAMA CRIED AND CRIED AND WHEN HE WAS SENT TO THE MOUNTAINS OF A DISTANT PROVINCE TO BECOME A MONK
SO I SET IT ON FIRE!
IF THERE'S A FIRE IN THIS MANSION... I'M SURE, I'M SURE HE WOULD THINK OF AYA-SAMA'S SAFETY
AND COME TO HELP.
YOU MUST NOT WAKE UP UNTIL THEN

HELP! FIRE!
ROAR
ISN'T YASUHARA TAKAYOSHI AMONG YOU?
THE YOUNG LADY IS IN THE FLAMES!
UGH!
WHO IS TAKAYOSHI-SAMA?!
WHICH ONE OF THEM?!

I'M LAYING MY LIFE AND WAITING,
I'M WAITING, GRANNY.
ARE YOU YASUHARU TAKAYOSHI?
NO, IS IT YOU?
I CAN'T RECOGNIZE HIM. I MUST HURRY OR AYA-SAMA WILL—

AYA-SAMA DIED...
IT WAS TOO MUCH! TAKAYOSHI-SAMA AND DIDN'T DEPART THAT DAY!
THE WIND GREW STRONGER AND BEFORE I KNEW IT, THE FIRE ENGULFED THE MAN-SION
AYA-SAMA WAS BURNED ALIVE.
BECAUSE I TOLD HER NOT TO WAKE UP...
I WILL DIE, TOO!
BECAUSE I FAILED!

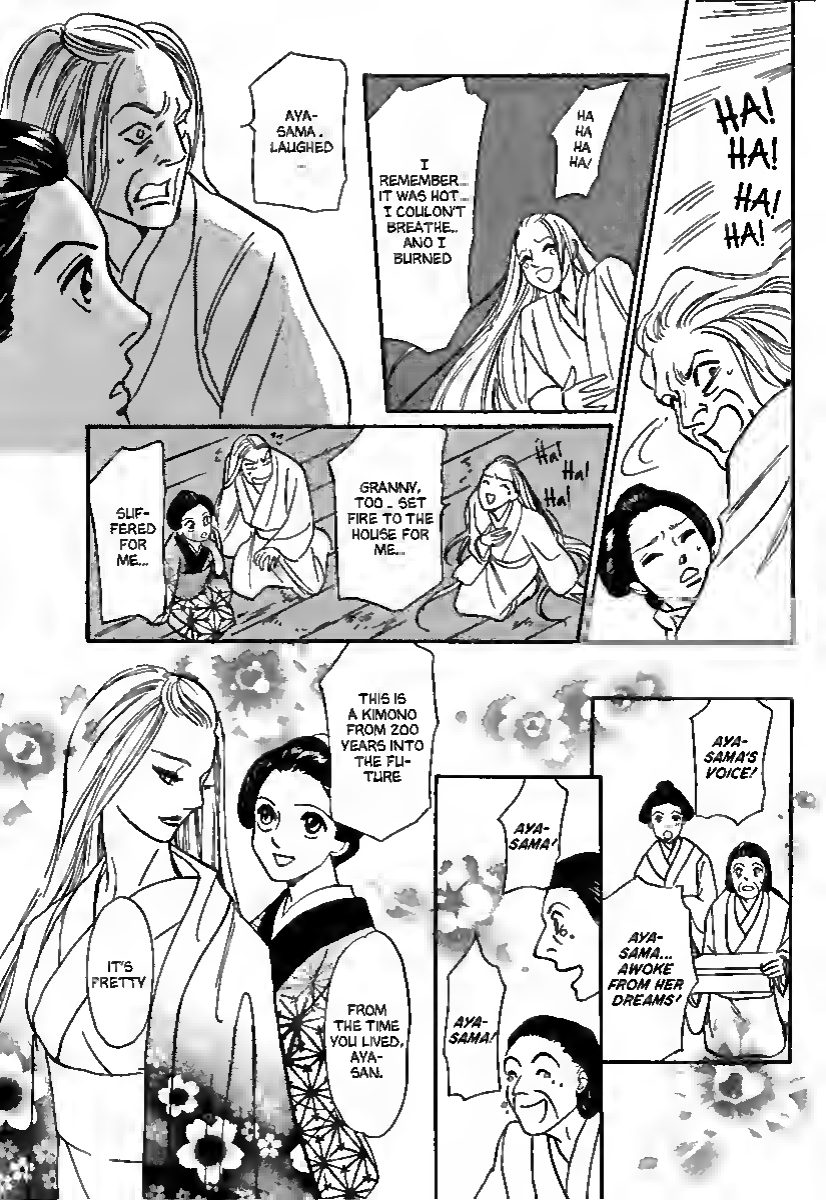
I BECAME DEAD
THIS TIME I WAS GOING TO BRING TAKAYOSHI-SAMA TO THE MANSION...
THIS TIME WHEN I SET IT ON FIRE
THIS TIME HE WOULD COME TO AYA-SAMA
BRING... A MAN...
SET FIRE...
TO AYA-SAMA'S SIDE...
SO YOU KILLED MAN AFTER MAN FOR THIS?!

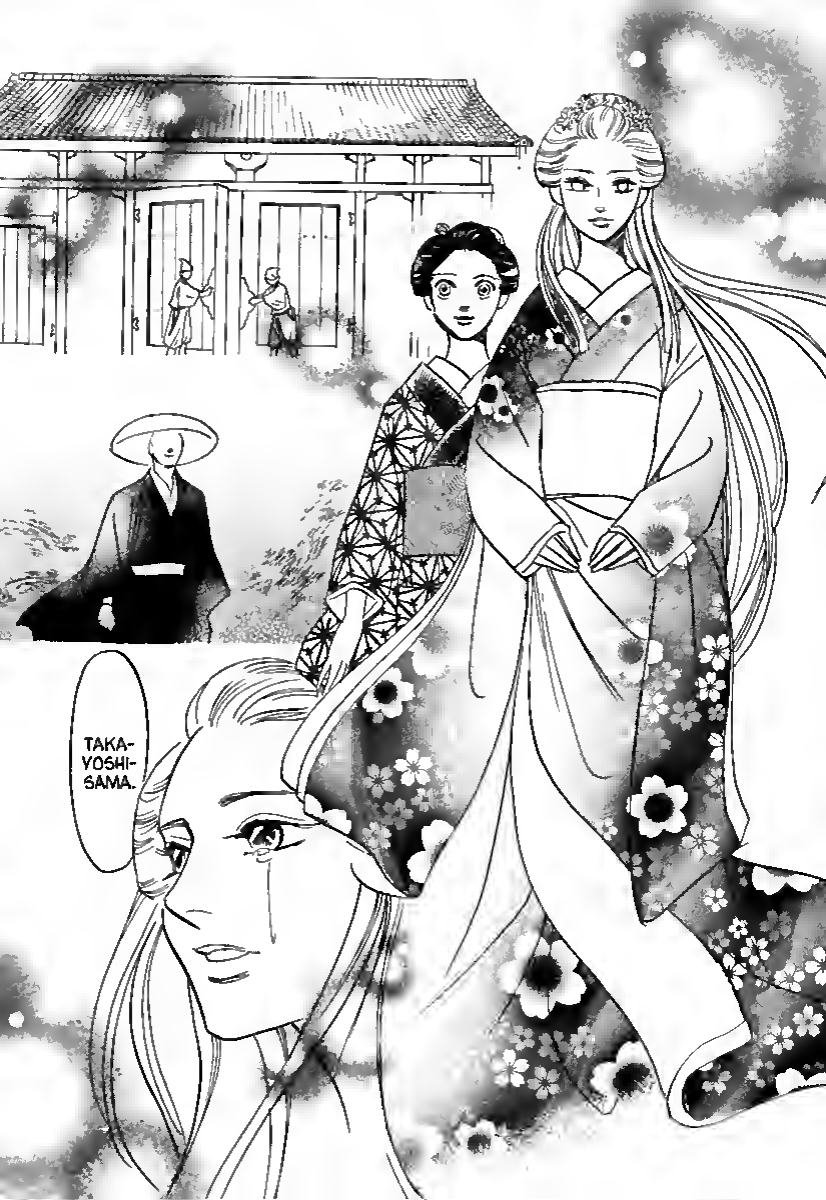
A LIE
I... AM...
ALREADY DEAD?
YOU TWO ARE...
JUST ASLEEP... I'M NOT DEAD!
MY LADY!
THAT'S RIGHT! THAT'S RIGHT!
YES, YOU'RE ALIVE!
GO-ROU!
GO BACK NOW! YOU MUST NOT COME THIS WAY!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU LITTLE WENCH!
HURRY... GO BACK!
TAKA-YOSHI-SAMA!
O-YUKI...
TA... KA...
I... STUMBLED UPON A WEIRD WORLD... I STRAYED RIGHT INTO IT...
TAKA-YOSHI-SAMA,
YOU...
O-YUKI!
WAVE
GRANNY... DON'T TOUCH... MY YUKI!
I'LL... HELP YOU NOW!

I STUMBLED UPON...
FINALLY, SOMEONE FOUND ME.
THAT MONK WAS...
GO-ROU!
HOSTESS, WHERE IS O-YUKI?
O-YUKI!
JUMP
EVERYONE WAS WORRIED
WHAT A RELIEF! WE THOUGHT YOU'D DIE...

O-YUKI
WAIT FOR ME, O-YUKI!
dash
SHE SAVED ME FROM A MONSTER!
YUKI-CHAN... A MAN FROM THE SHOP CAME TO LOOK FOR HER.
LET'S... GO OUT.
AYA-SAN.. WEAR... THAT KIMONO..
DO NOT LEAVE YOUR OWN LIFE IN OTHER PEOPLE'S HANDS...
LET US END IT!
THIS PAINFUL DREAM OF WAITING AND WAITING...


AYA-SAMA, LAUGHED
I REMEMBER... IT WAS HOT... I COULDN'T BREATHE.. AND I BURNED
HA HA HA HA!
HA! HA! HA! HA!
SUFFERED FOR ME...
GRANNY, TOO... SET FIRE TO THE HOUSE FOR ME...
Ha! Ha! Ha!
THIS IS A KIMONO FROM 200 YEARS INTO THE FUTURE
IT'S PRETTY
FROM THE TIME YOU LIVED, AYA-SAN.
AYA-SAMA'S VOICE!
AYA-SAMA!
AYA-SAMA... AWOKE FROM HER DREAMS!
AYA-SAMA!

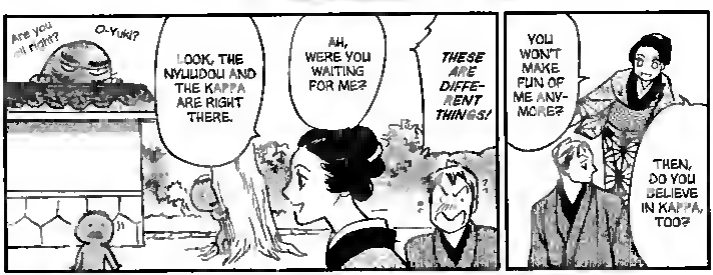

TAKA-
YOSHI-
SAMA.

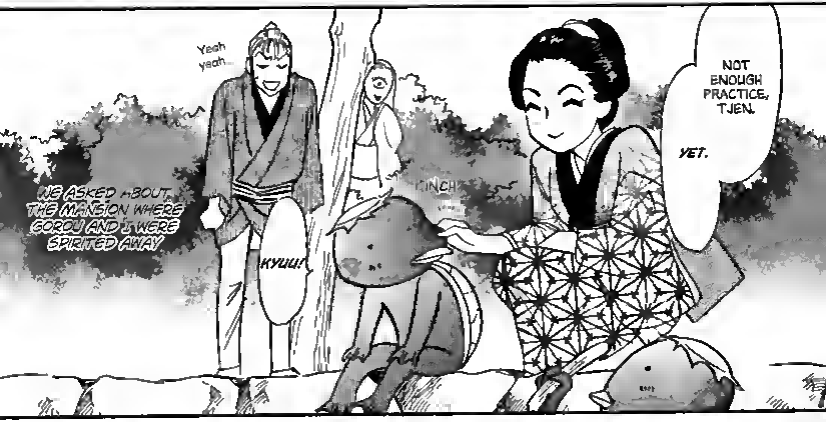
I STOOD HERE... FOR 200 YEARS
FINALLY - YOU FOUND ME.
I CHAINED YOU WITH THE FLAMES AND MY SINS.
BUT I'M FINALLY AWAKE.
BE-CAUSE OF MY SEL-FISH-NESS
SEVERAL FIRES BROKE OUT
AND MANY LIVES WERE LOST.
THIS IS GOOD-BYE.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THE FIRE RUINS?!
YUKI!
YUKI!
I'M SO GLAD ...
GO-ROU...

O-YUKI... THANK YOU...
NOW... THIS HOUSE WON'T HARM ANYONE ANYMORE.
GOROU-SAN... I WAS OUT OF MY MIND AND VIOLENT.. FORGIVE ME...
DON'T WORRY. IT'S FINALLY OVER.

Hm...
I REMEMBER BEING ALMOST KILLED BY A GRANNY.
YEAH...
DID YOU SEE IT, TOO, GORO?


Are you all right?
O-YUKI?
LOOK, THE NYUUDOU AND THE KAPPA ARE RIGHT THERE.
AH, WERE YOU WAITING FOR ME?
THESE ARE DIFFE-RENT THINGS!
YOU WON'T MAKE FUN OF ME ANY-MORE?
THEN, DO YOU BELIEVE IN KAPPA, TOO?


Yeah yeah...
WE ASKED ABOUT THE MANSION WHERE GORO AND I WERE SPIRITED AWAY
KYUU!
PINCH
NOT ENOUGH PRACTICE, TJEN.
YET.

BUT AFTER THIS, I'M SURE IT WILL SETTLE DOWN PEACEFULLY.
All soon!
AH TAWARA-YA-SAN'S KIMONO!
AND IT TURNED OUT THAT EVER SINCE A BIG FIRE 200 YEARS AGO THERE HAD BEEN REPEATED FIRES BREAKING OUT IN IT.
Sleeping Beauty - The End

Ayakashi Koi Kitan

Chapter 3

Source: Mari
Translator: Mari
Proofreader: Lacaille
Editor: Enigma
QCer: Enix

Brought to you by:

Acrandria Scans
http://acrandria.net

Iskultrip Scans
http://iskultrip.maryfaye.net

http://www.aerandria.net

CLOCKWORK INNOCENCE
(From the Ballet "The Nutcracker")

DING
DING
THE OTHER BLOCK'S DASHI* APPEARED!
WHEN THE BELL RINGS THREE TIMES, IT'S OUR BLOCK'S TURN!
*NOTE: IN THIS CASE, A FESTIVAL CAR
THE CLOCK-WORK DASHI IS PASSING!
EVERY-ONE, LET'S GO OUT TO WATCH!
AH!
waah!

BANG!
OUCH!
THE CLOCK-WORK DASHI IS PA--
The festival is starting!
YOUNG LADY!
SHUT UP, DECCHI
I'M SICK AND TIRED OF LOOK-ING AT CLOCK-WORK
HEY, MA-TSUE!
WAIT! WE'RE NOT DONE TALKING!

PULL!
PULL!!
I'M SICK OF TALKS OF MARRIAGE. I'M GOING TO THE FESTIVAL.
MASTER... IT'S TIME TO DELIVER THE STOCK TO THE CASTLE.
WORRY ABOUT MATSUE-SAMA LATER.
I'M SO PISSED! OUT OF MY WAY!
ARGH!

TRIP
AH!
WATCH OUT!

AH....
AH!
AH...
AH.
GOOD WORK, KYOUJI-SAN..!
THAT WAS DANGEROUS. THE WOMAN ALMOST STUMBLED INTO THE DASHI
AND WOMEN ARE IMPURE IN RELIGIOUS MATTERS*..
*NOTE ONLY MEN ARE ALLOWED TO PULL OR EVEN TOUCH THE RITUAL.
KYOUJI FROM THE PAPER STORE...
But you ended up touched by a woman*...
YOU CAN'T PULL THE DASHI ANY-MORE. THE FESTIVAL WILL BE SULLIED. GO HOME.
...!
DON'T TREAT PEOPLE LIKE CONTA-MINA-TIONS!
*NOTE. AND MEN HAD TO PURIFY THEM-SELVES BEFORE TOUCHING THE FLOATS.
HMPF
Too bad for the man who helped you
HEY, MATSUE-SAN, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
IF KYOUJI HADN'T SAVED YOU, THE DASHI WOULD HAVE RUN YOU OVER
AH, SHIZUE-SAN YOU LOOK WELL.
THE SAME ORNAMENT AS MINE..
Oo.

MATSUE-SAMA! SO THAT'S WHERE YOU WERE!
A YOUNG WOMAN SHOULD NOT WALK AROUND ALONE!
MA-TSUE-SAN...
YOU LOOKED AS IF YOU TWISTED YOUR ANKLE. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
GOING HOME.
The same hair ornament as Shizue! I can't take this!
AH!
YOUNG LADY!
HMPF, YOU CLUTZ.
EVEN IF YOU HADN'T INTER-FERED, I WOULD HAVE DODGED THAT DASH!
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN SO OFF THE MARK.
PULL!
PULL!
CLANK

I HATE THIS ONE, TOO!
I HATE THIS!
MATSUE. AH WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
THEY'RE STUFF ANYBODY WOULD WEAR!
NONE OF THEM STRIKES MY FANCY
I WANT A MORE EYE-CATCHING PIECE. AN IMPORTED ONE.
SO THAT EVERYONE WOULD ENVY ME.
BUT WE JUST BOUGHT YOU A NEW ONE THE OTHER DAY.
YOU DON'T LIKE YOUR COMBS AGAIN?
AND IF I CHANGE COMBS, I MUST CHANGE KIMONOS AS WELL!
IT WAS THE SAME AS SHIZUE'S!

I WANT A NEW CORAL CIMB!
YOU CAN'T KEEP UP THE WHIMS FOREVER.
THERE WAS A MARRIAGE PROPOSAL THAT CAME THROUGH YOUR FATHER, RIGHT?
MATSUE, WE WILL CONTINUE THIS.
AND I'LL ASK YOUR FATHER FOR A NEW CORAL COMB.
SO, CHEER UP.
THERE'S A CLIENT WHO WISH TO CHOOSE A BRIDAL ATTIRE.
MADAM, PLEASE COME TO THE SHOP.
YOU'RE AN ADULT NOW
BE RIGHT THERE.
WE MEET AGAIN!
AH!
MA-TSUE-SAN!

sparkle
sparkle
smile
AH, SHIZUE-SAN, WHAT A COINCI-DENCE.
AH, YOU'RE WEARING A DIFFERENT KIMONO... AS EXPECTED OF THE HEIRESS OF A KIMONO SHOP.
We're always com peting but...
her smile today is unusually sleek.
SHIZUE-SAN AND YOU SPARKLE UNUSUALLY TOO MUCH TODAY
EHEH
You can tell?
I WAS ENGAGED TO THAT MAN OVER THERE.
THE ELDEST SON AND HEIR OF THE HASHI-DAYA RICE DEALERS
PRETTY FACE, GOOD FAMILY, AND HE'S SO GENTLE...

AH, SHIZUE-SAMA IS REALLY HAPPY..
HMPH
See you!
Ch-Ch!
IT'S A FESTIVAL AND WE CAN JUST WALK TEN FEET APART, SO IT'S FINE!
IT'S IMMODEST AND UN-LADYLIKE TO TALK TO HIM BEFORE THE WEDDING, BUT...
FINDING A GOOD PARTNER
IS THE FOUNDA-TION OF A WOMAN'S HAPPINESS.
MY LADY ...
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE HAPPY ABOUT MARRYING THE SON OF SOME UPSTART.
SO WHAT?
HASHIDAYA IS A SHOP THAT JUST GOT BIG ALL OF A SUD-DEN!

CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
PULL!
PULL!
PULL!
PULL!
THE WEST BLOCK'S OFFERING TO THE DEITIES IS A DOLL!
KARAKO* CAN SPIN!
*NOTE: DOLL DRESSED IN ANCIENT CHINESE CLOTHES
SPIN
WAAH!

*NOTE
BLOCK
空
YANAGI-CHO!* HAS A DOLL THAT WRITES.
SENGOKU-CHAN HAS AN ISHI-BASHI-JISHI DANCER.
IT'S DANCING THE LION DANCE.
WHOA!
ALL DOLLS ARE AMAZING!
AMAZING! HOW DO THEY MOVE?!
FAMOUS CLOCK-WORK MASTERS LIKE HIDA AND OWARI MADE THEM
BY USING MECHANISMS OF COG-WHEELS AND SPRINGS.
AMAZING AMAZING...!
MY LADY! LOOK, A DOLL IS PLAYING THE FLUTE!
...

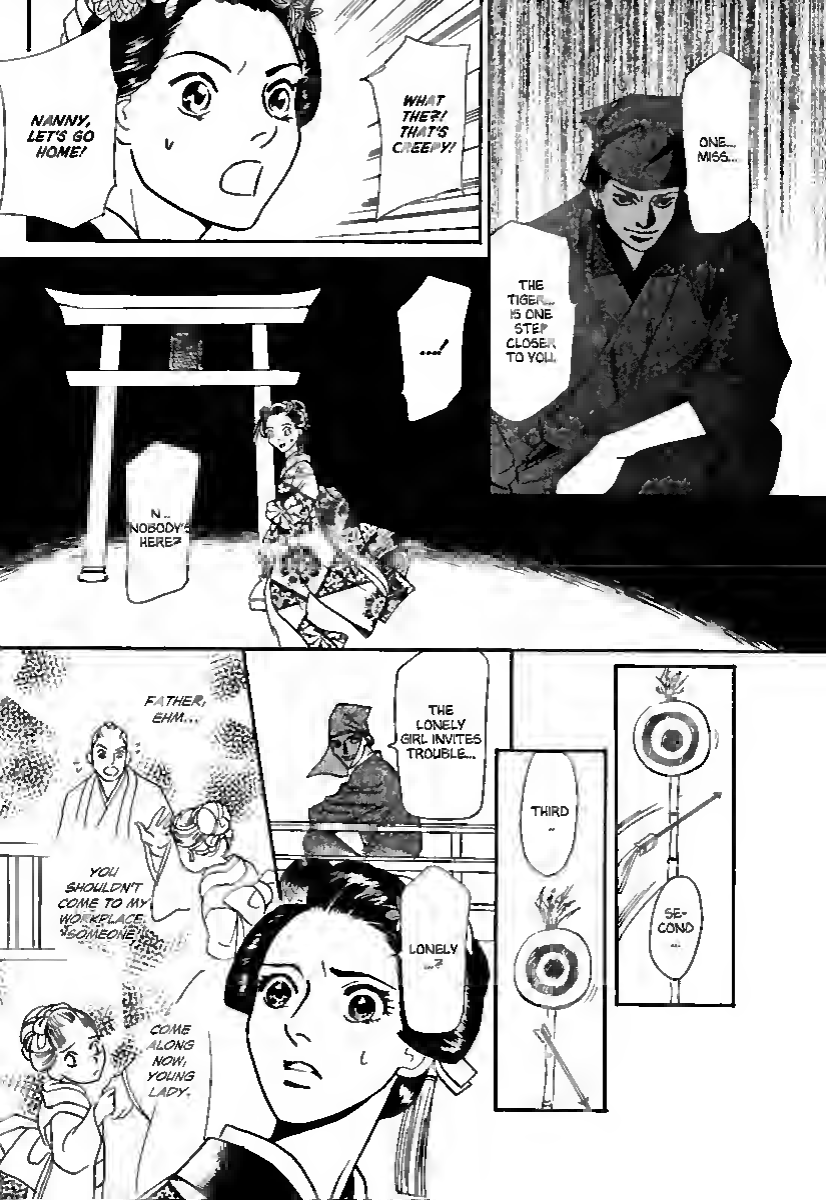
I WILL MARRY A MAN FROM A BETTER FAMILY.
SOMEONE BETTER LOOKING, TOO.
WHO HAS COOL EYES LIKE THAT OF AN ACTOR'S.
THAT'S RIGHT.
SHIZUE'S FIANCEE IS ENVIABLE,
BUT...
A MAN WITH GOOD TASTE...
WHO WOULD BRING ME A LOT OF IMPORTED GOODS.
AH, MY!
MATSUE-SAN, I ENVY YOU!
YOU'RE MARRYING THE BEST MAN IN THE THREE REALMS*!
*NOTE: A JAPANESE EXPRESSION, MEANING JAPAN CHINA AND INDIA.
WHEN I GET MARRIED...
PRETTY FACE, GOOD FAMILY,
IT WILL BE TO A A BETTER MAN THAN SHIZUE'S...
AND ON TOP OF THAT, GENTLE...
WE CAN WALK TEN FEET APART AND IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT...

THE PINNACLE OF THIS FESTIVAL IS THE DOLL DOING ARCHERY.
THE MAIN DASHI ARRIVED!
ARGH!
*NOTE CHIEF SHINTO PRIEST
WHAT A SPLENDID DASHI!
MY LADY, LOOK!
THE KANNUSHI* IS RAISING THE AIM.
AND NOW, THE MECHANISM THAT WILL DETERMINE THIS YEAR'S FORTUNES IS ABOUT TO TAKE AIM!
PLEASE, SEND A GOOD MARRIAGE PARTNER TO MY YOUNG LADY!
SHUT UP!

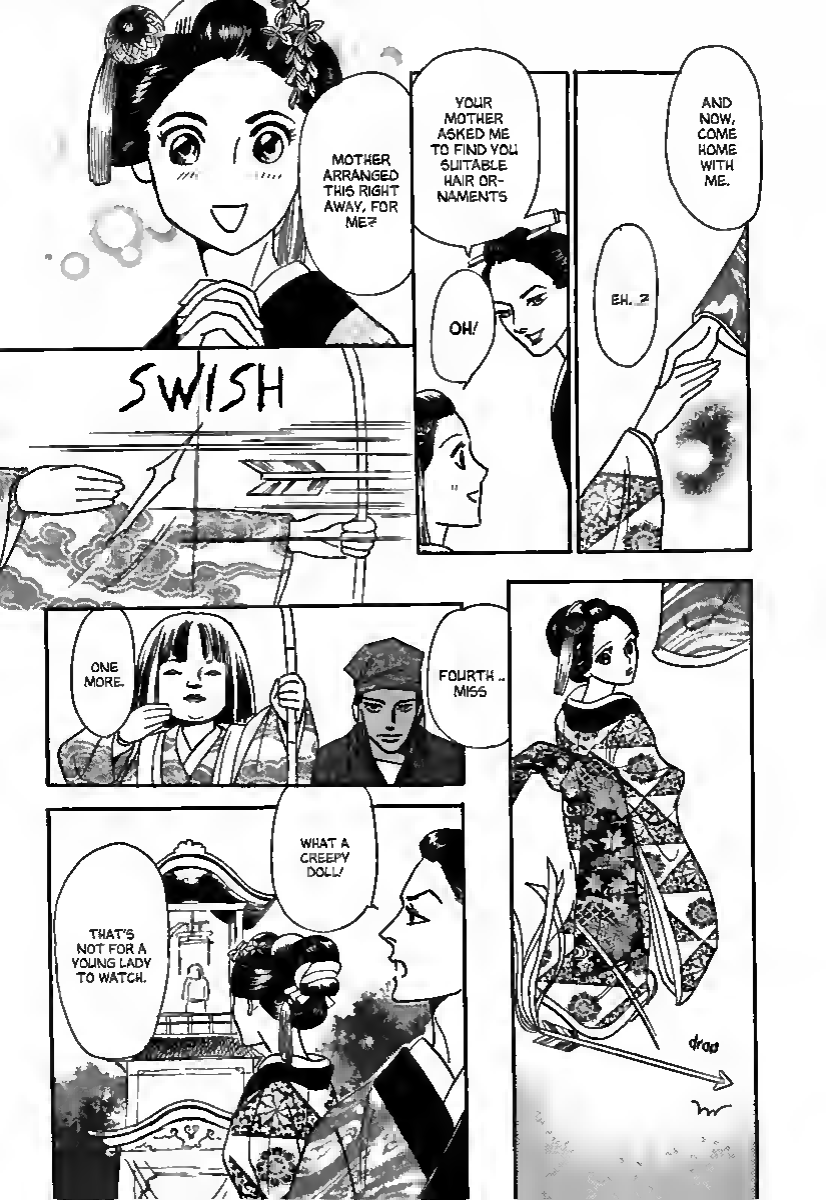
THEY'RE ALWAYS THE SAME DOLLS/ AREN'T YOU TIRED OF LOOKING AT THEM EVERY YEAR?
IT'LL SHOOT FIVE ARROWS, SO ONE OF THEM IS JUST BOUND TO HIT THE MARK/
STOP TALKING EVIL.
IF THE ARROWS MISS, WHO KNOWS WHAT MISFORTUNES WILL BEFALL UPON US.
IT WOULD BE SO MUCH MORE FUN IF THEY ALL MISSED.
IT'S TERRIBLY DIFFICULT TO HAVE A CLOCKWORK MECHANISM HIT AN AIM WITH AN ARROW
IN THAT CASE, THERE'S A TRICK TO THE TARGET.
IT'S NOT REALLY A CLOCKWORK DOLL, IT'S A TRICK.

CUT IT OUT, YOU'LL BE PUNISHED FOR THIS.
TALK
TALK
THE CLOCKWORK MASTER WILL HEAR YOU.
I DON'T CARE... IF HE HEARS ME.
SMIRK
DING!

clack
clack
clack
clack
SWISH
waver


NANNY, LET'S GO HOME!
WHAT THE?! THAT'S CREEPY!
ONE... MISS...
THE TIGER... IS ONE STEP CLOSER TO YOU.
...!
N... NOBODY'S HERE?
FATHER, EHM...
THE LONELY GIRL INVITES TROUBLE...
THIRD...
SE-COND...
YOU SHOULDN'T COME TO MY WORKPLACE. SOMEONE IS...
LONELY...?
COME ALONG NOW, YOUNG LADY.

THE MASTER IS BUSY
NO, NO! WHAT ABOUT MOMMY?
SHE IS BUSY. LATER, ALL RIGHT? LATER.
IN RETURN, WE'LL DRESS YOU IN A PRETTY KIMONO FOR THE FESTIVAL.
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
MY LADY, YOU'RE THE GIRL FROM THE KIMONO SHOP, RIGHT?
HUH?
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU.
I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU.
HOW CUTE. YOU'RE JUST LIKE A DOLL


MOTHER ARRANGED THIS RIGHT AWAY, FOR ME?
YOUR MOTHER ASKED ME TO FIND YOU SUITABLE HAIR ORNAMENTS
OH!
AND NOW, COME HOME WITH ME.
EH..?
SWISH
ONE MORE.
FOURTH .. MISS
WHAT A CREEPY DOLL!
THAT'S NOT FOR A YOUNG LADY TO WATCH.
drop

YOU'RE PRETTY, GLORIOUS, BEAUTIFUL LIKE A SAKURA IN FULL BLOOM.
WHAT SUITS YOU IS AN ARISTOCRATIC DOLL, BELOVED BY EVERYONE.
WHY DOES SHE USE SUCH MELTINGLY GENTLE WORDS TO ME?
THIS PERSON... WHY...
COME ON, COME THIS WAY.
THE MANSION IS RIGHT THERE.
AAH!
AMAZING!
THIS IS THE ROOM FOR OBI*
NEXT IS THE ACCESSORIES ROOM
*NOTE: WIDE KIMONO BELTS.

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN OUR PATRON, SO PLEASE,
TAKE AS MANY OF ANYTHING YOU LIKE.
OH!
IT'S LIKE A DREAM!
SHIZUE WILL ENVY ME SO MUCH WHEN SHE SEES THIS.
Fu Fu
ALTHOUGH SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO WEAR SUCH DAZZLING THINGS AFTER SHE EXCHANGES HER VOWS.
YES.
THEY SUIT YOU WELL.
PLEASE, TAKE IT
THIS IS GREAT, TOO!
AH... WHAT GORGEOUS GOLD THREADED OBI...
SHIBARI-SOME FURISODE*/ NOBODY HAS SUCH AN EXQUI-SITE ONE!
I CAN'T EVEN WALK OUTSIDE WEARING THIS.

*Note: Furisode is a looooong-sleeved kimono for a not yet married girl and shibari-some means "tie-dyed," i.e. a kimono which is tie-dyed entirely, which is unusual and expensive

IT'S ENOUGH TO SHOW IT TO THE PERSON YOU LOVE
ON YOUR WEDDING DAY, MY LADY.
WHAT A NICE PERSON.
NOT EVEN MY PARENTS HAVE EVER CARED FOR ME LIKE THIS.
BUT... I DON'T WANT A HUSBAND CHOSEN BY MY PARENTS!
IF THEY TELL ME TO MARRY SOME BOAR, I'D RATHER DIE!
COME THIS WAY.
CAN I... DO THAT?
I UNDER-STAND THAT.
YOU SHOULD CHOOSE A MAN YOU LIKE.

ONE,
TWO
SLIDE
AH!
YOU HAVE EIGHT PROPOSALS FOR NOW, RIGHT, MY LADY?
IF YOU TEST THE PRODUCTS AND CHOOSE NOW
WE CAN DELIVER AT ONCE.
NO!
WHAT'S WITH THAT SCRUFFY FACE!

I HATE THIS ONE! SHIZUE WILL LAUGH AT ME!
HER FIANCEE IS A BETTER MAN!
IS THAT SO? BUT HE'LL NEVER WANT FOR ANYTHING IN HIS LIFE.
I DON'T TO SHOW SUCH A MAN THAT GOLDEN OBI!
THIS FURISODE KIMONO IS WASTED ON THE LIKES OF HIM!
AS EXPECTED OF THE HEIRESS OF A LARGE SHOP...
Hahaha!
IT WAS WORTH BRINGING YOU HERE.
THEN HOW ABOUT A MAN WHO NEVER LIES?
直
NO!
HE'S WAY TOO SQUARE-JAWED!
HOW ABOUT THE FIFTH?
HE'S WAY TOO SUN-BURNED
THE SIXTH... MY, MY...
PUT HIM IN RESERVE.
THE SE-VENTH?
AH!
温

KYOUJI
I HAVE A PROPOSAL FROM KYOUJI, TOO?
PRETTY FACE, GOOD FAMILY.
AH, NO!
KYOUJI CAN'T HOLD A CANDLE TO SHIZUE'S MAN!
WHAT DO WE DO? THERE'S ONE MORE LEFT.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE?
IT'S WRITTEN THAT THIS MAN IS VERY GENTLE.
OPEN THE LAST ONE!
I'M NOT CONVICED! I NEED MORE, MORE...
CLACK
OHH!

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL PERSON.. ESPECIALLY FOR A MAN.
I CHOOSE THIS ONE.
ARE YOU SURE?
HE HAS A COLD SIDE TO HIM.
I DON'T MIND I'M USED TO LONELINESS.
BUT... IF MY HUSBAND AND I ARE SO GORGEOUS,
SHIZUE, AND ALL MY GIRLFRIENDS, TOO...
THEY WILL ALL ENVY ME. AND THEN...
I CAN LIVE MY WHOLE LIFE HAPPY.
HEHEH
YOU CHOSE FREELY.
YES.. WE DON'T NEED ANY PAYMENT AT ALL.

YOUR FILTHY, DRAB LIFE!
WHAT—?
IN RETURN...
GIVE ME ONE THING I CHOOSE.
KYAAA!
HEL— HELP ME!
MY... WIFE...!

NOOOO
YOU FILTHY GIRL!
WE LIKE YOU
YOUR LIFE IS POISONED WITH VANITY AND GREED
YOU'RE SUITABLE FOR A BRIDE IN MY WORLD
THIS WAY! YOU CAN ESCAPE HERE!
GOOD JOB RETURNING, THIS GIRL.
DONT MISS THIS TIME.
clack
clack

THE CLOCK-WORK MASTER?

SFX: THUD
SFX: GYAAAA
SFX: PASU
WAAAH!
HIT!
THE FINAL ARROW HIT!
THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL FINALLY CHASED AWAY ALL EVIL!

MATSUE-SAN!
I'M SORRY. I...
DRIP
I WAS SO LONELY. ALWAYS..
DRIP
KYOU... JI...?
WHAT IS IT? ARE YOU FEELING ALL RIGHT?
SHE FOUND A MARRIAGE PARTNER
I finished work early. We were looking for you
MATSUE... WHAT HAPPENED?
THE MYSTERIOUS CLOCKWORK MASTER
CLEARED AWAY THE EVIL FROM MY HEART.
THAT ONE ARROW.. BOUND MY FATE AND KYOUJI'S.
Clockwork Innocence * The End-

Ayakashi Koi Kitan

Chapter 4

Source: Mari
Translator: Mari
Proofreader: Lacaille
Editor: Enigma
QCer: Enix

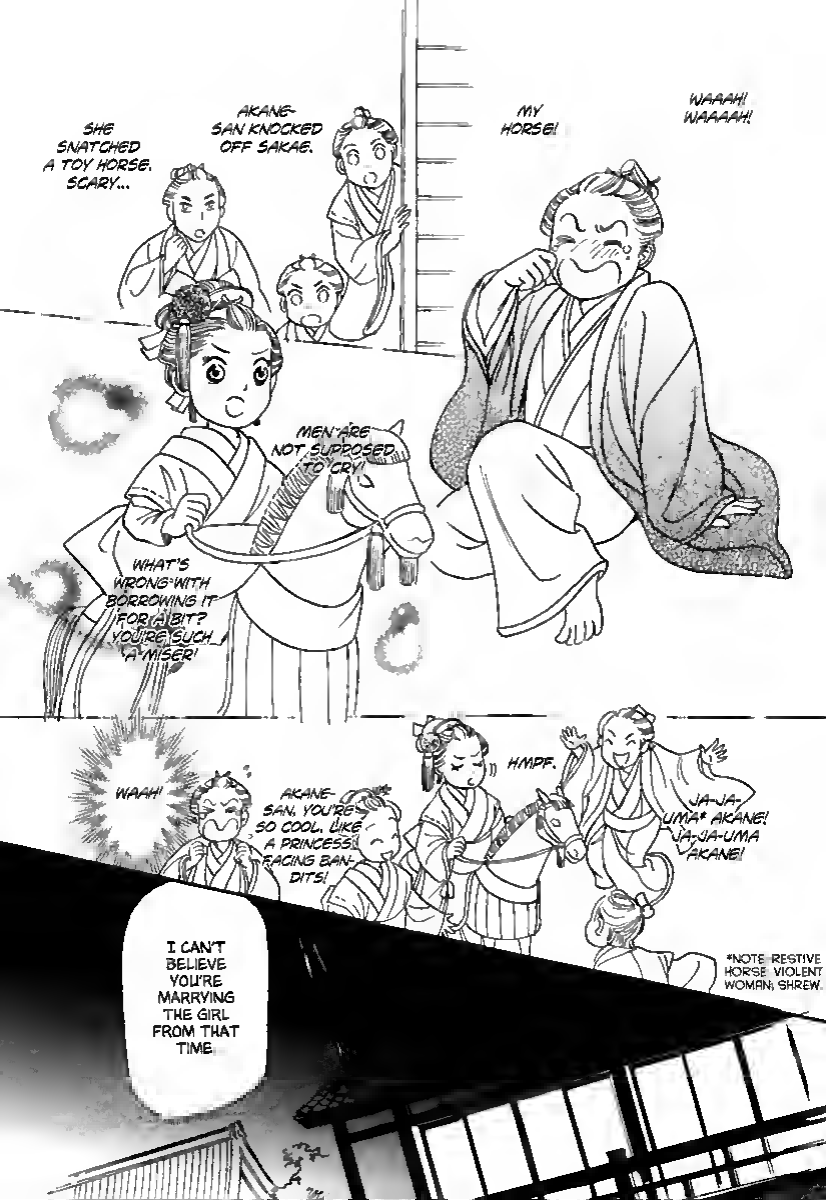
Brought to you by:

Acrandria Scans
http://acrandria.net

Iskultrip Scans
http://iskultrip.maryfaye.net

http://www.aerandria.net

THE MISSING GROOM
(From the ballet "La Sylphide")


SHE SNATCHED A TOY HORSE. SCARY...
AKANE-SAN KNOCKED OFF SAKAE.
MY HORSE!
WAAAH! WAAAAH!
MEN ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO CRY!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH BORROWING IT FOR A BIT? YOU'RE SUCH A MISER!
WAAH!
AKANE-SAN, YOU'RE SO COOL, LIKE A PRINCESS FACING BANDITS!
HMPF.
JA-JA-UMA* AKANE! JA-JA-UMA AKANE!
*NOTE: RESTIVE HORSE. VIOLENT WOMAN; SHREW.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE MARRYING THE GIRL FROM THAT TIME.

I CAN ALREADY SEE YOU AS A HENPECKED HUSBAND
SA-KAE!
DRINK, DRINK! STARTING TOMORROW, YOU'LL HAVE TO BITE YOUR TONGUE, PUT THE SADDLE ON YOUR BACK, AND GET ROYALLY BOSSED AROUND.
THAT AKANE GIRL JUST MOVED TO YOTSUYA, RIGHT?
WHAT KIND OF GIRL DID SHE GROW INTO?
I'VE ONLY SEEN HER FROM AFAR...
I CAN'T BREAK OFF THE BETROTHAL. THE UNION'S HEAD ACTED AS A GO-BETWEEN AND BRAGS TO EVERYONE ABOUT IT, SO..
I'M SO DEPRESSED
YEAH, AND YOU'RE UNUSUALLY PICKY, TOO.
SIGH I HATE THIS. SOME JA-JA-UMA... MUST BE MORE... ERM...
REFINED..
NEAT..
...!

HOHOH/ YOU HAVE VERY GOOD TASTE, SAKAE-SAMA.
THIS IS ONE OF THE "BEAUTIES" SERIES OF THE FAMOUS HOUSAI-SENSEI FROM NIPPONBASHI. IT'S EVEN AUTO-GRAPHED

THAT HANG-ING SCROLL/ YES/
THAT'S THE KIND OF WOMAN I WANT TO MARRY/
HOST... W-WHO IS THE WOMAN IN THIS PICTURE?

IT'S A PICTURE OF THE GHOST OF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN THAT HOUSEI-SENSEI SAW
UNFOR-TUNATELY, EVEN THOUGH IT LOOKS LIKE THE PAINTING OF A BEAUTY,
Hoho!
HOW BEAUTI-FUL...
OOOH/ AS YOU SAID, SAKAE, MUST BE A PRETTY GOOD WOMAN

WHERE?! WHERE?! WHAT A SHOW!
WHAT ?!
HEY!
THE STORAGE ON THE RIVER-BANK IS ON FIRE!
AND WEARING SUCH A BEAUTIFUL KOSODE*...
HOHOH! YOU'LL BE DRAGGED TO THE OTHER WORLD, SAKAE-SAMA
G-GHOST ..?!
AND I WOULD'VE LOVED TO MARRY SUCH A GIRL...
disappointed
SO REFINED . READING POETRY .. ARISTO-CRATIC BEARING...
I WANT TO MARRY A WOMAN LIKE YOU!
AHHH .. I DON'T WANT SOME JA-JA-UMA...
SAKAE!
SAKAE!
I WANT TO BE BOUND TO YOU...

SAKAE HAS DISAPPEARED!
WHERE COULD HE HAVE GONE OFF TO?
HE'S NOT HOME, EITHER!
HEY... ISN'T THAT SAKAE'S HAORI?
EH?
...!
EH. THE WOMAN IN THE PICTURE...
SHE'S... GONE?!
WAAAH!
SAKAE WAS KIDNAPPED BY A GHOST!
AKANE!
WRONG AGAIN!
AHHH, PITIFUL!

BREAK IT IN TWO WITH YOUR RIGHT THUMB AND INDEX FINGER, AND THEN
PUT THE RIGHT HALF DOWN AND EAT THE LEFT ONE FIRST
MUNCH
YOU DO NOT SPEAK WITH YOUR MOUTH FULL!
THAT'S NOT SOMETHING A GIRL ABOUT TO BE MARRIED DOES!
YOU TAKE IT WITH YOUR LEFT HAND,
WHEN YOU EAT MANJUU*
WHAT?
?
*NOTE. STEAMED BUN STUFFED WITH SWEET RED BEAN PASTE.
glance
glance
NEXT, THE PROPER WAY TO SERVE YOUR GUESTS!
EH...? WHICH ONE?
EH?!
NO! THAT'S FOR SOUPS! YOU TAKE THE RICE BOWL WITH YOUR LEFT HAND, LIKE THIS... THEN TAKE THE SPOON...
AH TAKE HIS BOWL WITH THE TAAY, AND—
WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN THE GUEST WANTS MORE RICE?

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
YOU'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF SEWING PRACTICE!
SERVANTS SEW THE KIMONOS AND SERVE THE MEALS.
GRANDMA, I'M NOT GETTING MARRIED TO BE A HOUSE MAID
AKANE!
sneak
STOMP STOMP
WHAT IF YOUR HUSBAND DIVORCES YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE A JA-JA-UMA?!
YOU CAN'T ACT LIKE A CHILD FOREVER!
A BRIDE WHO CAN'T SEW ONE KIMONO IS A LAUGHING STOCK!
DON'T GIVE ME THAT!
DIVORCE. AS IF!
EVEN IF I MARRY, I'LL STILL GO TO THE THEATRE AND VISIT FRIENDS!

THE YOUNG MASTER OF THE DAIKOKU-YA IS GETTING MARRIED!
LOOK AT THE BRIDE! SO BEAU-TIFUL!
Stomp
Stomp
WE STILL HAVEN'T FOUND SAKAE!
WHAT DO WE DO?! THE BRIDE IS HERE!
WE HAVE TO GIVE SOME EX-PLANA-TION!
WHAT DO WE DO, DEAR?!
I WAS SURE HE'D BE BACK FOR THE VOWS...
THE HEIR OF THE DAIKOKU-YA DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE BEFORE HIS WEDDING, IS THAT WHAT WE SAY?
HOW DO WE EXPLAIN THIS?
MY CHARACTER IS GOOD...
I'M CUTE
I'M SURE MY HUSBAND WILL TREASURE ME.

YOU'RE LATE! IT'S RUDE TO MAKE THE BRIDE WAIT ON YOUR DOORSTEP!
Stomp
Stomp
HMPF! I WON'T STAND TO BE LOOKED DOWN AT BY THE BRIDE'S FAMILY!
ARE YOU TELLING ME TO BOW MY HEAD AND APOLOGIZE?!
BUT...
THE GROOM IS...
DAIKOKU-YA, ARE YOU TRYING TO EMBARRASS THE BRIDE, YOU!
HOW LONG WILL THEY MAKE US WAIT?
WHAT?!
HOW-EVER!
GLANCE
WE'RE... DESPE-RATELY LOOKING FOR HIM.
MY SON... SAKAE IS...
HE WAS SPIRITED AWAY.

ACCORDING TO HIS BEST FRIENDS,
THAT AKANE-DONO OVER THERE RIDES HORSES AND CASUALLY BULLIES MEN, DESPITE BEING A GIRL.
IF BY THE ALL-MERCIFUL KANZEON'S* GRACE
Please, please!
*NOTE: BUDDHA OF MERCY AND SALVATION.
ME?!
THAT GIRL CHANGES HER ATTITUDE... SAKAE TOO IS CERTAIN TO RETURN TO US!
OUR GENTLE SAKAE PRAYED FOR DELIVERANCE FROM HER TO ALL GODS AND DEITIES.
THAT'S WHY HE WAS KIDNAPPED BY THE SPIRITS!
HOW RUDE!
BWAH?!
RETURN HOME FOR TONIGHT!
*NOTE: HORSEBACK RIDING WAS RESERVED FOR MEN, AND ESPECIALLY THE RICH ONES, WHO COULD AFFORD THE HORSE.
AND THE YOUNG MASTER OF THE DAIKOKU-YA IS SUCH A REFINED, ELEGANT GENTLEMAN...
THAT GIRL... IS A JA-JA-UMA...
A NORMAL TOWNSMAN'S DAUGHTER - GETTING ON A HORSE?! DISGUSTING!*
WHISPER

chirp
chirp
AKANE!
WHAT A HORRIBLE DAUGHTER!
MY LADY!
drip
drip
HEY, DID YOU HEAR? ABOUT THIS GIRL?
PFFT! I DID. HER MAN SAW HER ON A HORSE, RIGHT?
HA! HA! HA!
THE GROOM WAS SO TERRIFIED HE BEGGED THE GODS TO BREAK OFF THE ENGAGEMENT.
THEY TURNED HER AWAY AT THE GATES JUST BEFORE THE WEDDING!
YES, NO WONDER, WITH THAT OBSTINATE ACT OF HERS!

THAT IDIOT DAIKOKU-YA. WHY DO THEY BLAME US, WHEN WE'RE AT NO FAULT WHATSO-EVER?!
HMPH
ENTER
IT'S ALL BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T RAISE YOUR DAUGHTER WELL!
DEAR...
SPLASH!
OOH, HOW DUSTY!
ARE YOU BLAMING ME?!
IT'S ALL BECAUSE YOU SPOILED AKANE!
EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT ME.
IT'S AS GRANNY SAID.
YOU CAN'T ACT LIKE A CHILD FOREVER.
WHAT IF YOUR HUSBAND DIVORCES YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE A JA-JA-UMA?

AFTER ALL... I'M NO GOOD.
BECAUSE I'M NOT FEMININE.
AKANE.
GRANNY!
SHE'LL SCOLD ME!
I'M SORRY, GRANNY.
IT'S ALL MY FAULT, I'M NO GOOD.
Ho!
Ho!
Ho!

BUT... MY MANNERS AND MY SEWING ARE HORRIBLE...
THAT'S WHY THE GROOM WAS SPIRITED AWAY...
WHAT'S THERE TO CRY ABOUT?
YOU ARE THE GRAND-DAUGHTER I'M SO PROUD OF!
WHY IS IT YOUR FAULT?
GRAN-NY...
HOHOHO!
I GUA-RANTEE IT!
IT'S NONE OF YOUR FAULT.
GRANNY ...
Just between the two of us!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I COULDN'T SEW ONE KIMONO EVEN!
WHAT?!
CAN'T BE HELPED. I HAD A SERVANT WHO WAS VERY GOOD AT SEWING.
WE HAVE TO FIND THE GROOM AND CATCH HIM.
COME ON!
WIPE YOUR TEARS

IT WAS BECAUSE SHE THOUGHT ABOUT ME.
I THOUGHT SHE KNEW NOTHING BUT STERNNESS
SHE ALWAYS SCOLDED ME.
NOW, SHE IS MY GREATEST ALLY.
THEN THAT STORY ABOUT "KIDNAPPED BY DEITIES" IS TRUE?!
EEH?!
AT A RESTAURANT CALLED "IDZUTSU"...
AND IT WAS SO WEIRD...
EVERYONE IN TOWN KNOWS ABOUT IT

"THE MISSING GROOM" A GHOSTLY STORY TAKING PLACE HE NIGHT BEFORE A WEDDING!
COME, COME! A NEW PLAY TODAY!
WOMAN'S..
GHOST?
AT THE TIME THE YOUNG MASTER DISAP-PEARED..
A WOMAN'S GHOST DEPICTED ON ONE OF THE RESTAURANT'S HANGING SCROLLS ALSO DISAPPEARED
IS TAKEN IN WITH A BEAUTIFUL GHOST
A GROOM TERRIFIED BY A JA-JA-UMA BRIDE
COME! A REAL STORY THAT JUST HAPPENED HERE!
AND NOW HE'S WALKING THE ROADS OF HELL!
I SWEAR, BUT, ANYWAY, WE HAVE TO GO TO THAT RESTAURANT
WHAT A HORRIBLE PLAY.. THEY CALL ME A "SICK WOMAN.."
AKANE... SOMETIMES PEOPLE JUST HAVE TO ACCEPT
THE UNSPEAKABLE SLANDER EVERY ONE SAYS ABOUT THEM..

BUT ONE DAY, THE TRUTH WILL MAKE ITSELF KNOWN.
squeeze
GRANNY...
THIS IS... THAT SCROLL?
RIGHT HERE... A WOMAN'S GHOST WAS DEPICTED HERE.
PLEASE, SMILE... IT'S AN ADVICE FROM SOMEONE MUCH OLDER THAN YOU.
YES... SAKAE-SAMA LIKED THE BEAUTY IN THE PICTURE QUITE A LOT.
I WOULD HAVE LOVED TO MARRY SUCH A GIRL...
I DON'T WANT SOME YA-YA-UMA...
I WANT TO... MARRY A WOMAN LIKE YOU...
NERVOUS

THIS PICTURE IS AUTO-GRAPHED BY HOUSAI-SENSEI!
AH, YOU'RE VERY LEARNED, MADAM!
I'M GOING THERE WITH MY GRAND-DAUGHTER NOW.
BY THE WAY... IS THAT SAKAE-SAN'S FIAN-CEE?
YES
Nothing like a ja-ja-uma
WHAT... SHE'S SUCH A CUTE, WELL-MANNERED GIRL
SAKAE-SAN... MUST HAVE BEEN CONFUSED
INDEED
WHAT ?

AND I DREW SUCH A PRETTY WOMAN ON IT, TOO.
AND THIS WOMAN'S GHOST...
THIS IS ONE OF MY PAINT-INGS.
OOH! REALLY?
A GHOST... ESCAPED?
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN TELL US?
DISAPPEARED WITH MY FIANCEE.
IT SEEMS HE SAID THAT RATHER THAN ME
HE'D LIKE TO MARRY THE WOMAN IN THAT PICTURE.
...!

THIS IS NO LAUGHING MATTER!
GWAHAHAHA!
PFFT...
THE TWO OF THEM MUST HAVE GONE TO THE OTHER WORLD
SOB
HA HA HA!
YES
O-MITSU-SAN LOOKS LIKE I DID YOUR GRAND-DAUGHTER A BAD TURN.
SENSEI... DO YOU KNOW ANY-THING?
SHE DID A BAD THING
FOR-TUNATELY, THE SUN IS SETTING.
SO, SHALL WE GO GROOM-HUNTING?

gust
IT HAP-PENED THREE YEARS AGO...
I WAS DRAWING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, WHEN...
I HEARD A STRANGE NOISE AND WENT OUT TO THE GARDEN TO CHECK IT OUT.
A WOMAN WAS STANDING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE POND...

SHE LOOKED VERY PALE AND GLARED AT ME.
shiver
shiver
THIS WATER TRAPPED MY LEGS — I HATE YOU..
IS THIS YOUR POND?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING AT SUCH AN HOUR?
AND IN MY GARDEN?
DAMN...
YOU'VE GOT ME...
YOU... ARE SOME KIND OF MONSTER!
THE WATER IN THIS POND
COMES FROM A BLESSED, HOLY SPRING FLOWING IN THE MOUNTAINS

HMPF. FOR A GHOST,
AND SO, I DREW HER A PICTURE AND MADE HER PROMISE SHE WON'T DO ANYTHING BAD ANYMORE.
YOU'RE A RATHER PRETTY WOMAN IN THAT CASE!
I DRAINED THE POND AND LET HER GO.
PLEASE... I JUST WANTED TO BREAK FREE OF THE WATER'S TRAP.
LET ME GO.
A DEAD PERSON GETTING CAUGHT IN A TRAP AND DOING SUCH THINGS!
SEN-SEI!
AND NOW SHE DID SOMETHING BAD AGAIN!
OOH!
THAT'S.
THERE THEY ARE.
AH, YES, YOU STILL HAVEN'T SEEN THAT PICTURE.
ISN'T THERE SOMETHING FISHY ABOUT THIS?
BESIDES, THE TWO WENT TO THE MOUNTAINS IN THE BACK AND-
It's scary! So scary!

SAKAE-SAN...
HUSH! YOU WILL SEE SOMETHING FUNNY NOW.
OOOH!
CLAP CLAP
AMAZING, SPECTACULAR!
YOU REALLY ARE A WONDERFUL WOMAN.
YOUR POETRY, YOUR DANCING - YOU'RE SO SKILLED.
AH, YOUNG MASTER, YOU PRAISE ME TOO MUCH
A SPLENDID MANSION, BEST QUALITY SAKE...

NOW COME HERE.
MAY I? AREN'T YOU SPOKEN FOR SOMEONE ELSE?
SPO-KEN FOR...
...
THERE WAS THAT PROMISE .. YES.
AH, AH, AH
YOU ALREADY FORGOT.
YES... I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT ANYMORE.
ENGAGEMENT?
NO... WAH!
WHAT THE...
YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO MARRY A WOMAN LIKE ME, RIGHT?!
HOHOHO! YOU WERE AT THE RESTAURANT, RIGHT?!

I WANT... TO SEE YOU DANCE.
I WAS SURE YOU'D BE... A GOOO HUS-BAND...
YES..
I'M... YOUR...
AND YOU..
SWEAR TO ME.
..
I'LL DANCE. OF COURSE I'LL DANCE.
NO, SAKAE-KUN!
I WILL BECOME YOUR BRIDE!

WAAH!
SFX: SPLASH
DO YOU WANT ME TO POUR HOLY WATER OVER YOU AGAIN?!
IT SHOWED ITS TRUE SHAPE! IT'S A GIANT OTTER!

ARE YOU SURE, AKANE?
THIS MAN FORGOT HE HAD SWORN TO MARRY YOU.
SAKAE-SAMA!
THIS WAY!
SO...
COLD ...
AKANE..?
THIS GIRL IS AKANE?
YOU CAN GET AS MANY OTHER SUITORS AS YOU LIKE.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT WITH THIS ONE?
SAKAE-SAN, DO YOU HATE ME?
YOU WERE TRICKED BY THIS OTTER AND FORGOT YOUR ENGAGEMENT VOWS.
BECAUSE OF YOU, THIS GIRL WAS TURNED AWAY ON THE DOORSTEP
hiss

PLEASE, DON'T HATE ME...
FORGIVE ME!
EH?!
AND SHE STILL CAME LOOKING FOR YOU.
DON'T YOU THINK THIS IS HEROIC?
I'M... MY GRANNY'S GRAND-CHILD.
SINCE I DECIDED TO BECOME YOUR WIFE..
I DECIDED THAT I WILL LOVE MY HUSBAND, COME WHAT MAY.
KISS

laugh
DON'T MAKE HER WALK! CARRY HER RIGHT INTO THE HOUSE!
AND SAKAE-SAN AND I...
THE ESTEEMED BRIDE IS HERE!
SHE SAVED SAKAE'S LIFE...
THE DAIKOKUYA'S TREASURED BRIDE!
THE OTTER WOMAN RETURNED TO THE PICTURE
OH, SHE REALLY DOES HAVE A TAIL.
I WILL ALWAYS PROTECT MY HOME...
I WILL LEARN TO OBEY MY HUSBAND FROM MY GRANNY...
Eek! The new bride is scary...
HEY, YOU! NO SKIPPING WORK!
Your calculations are off!
FROM THE MOST FEARSOME CREATURE AROUND HERE!

Ayakashi Koi Kitan

Chapter 5

Source: Mari
Translator: Mari
Proofreader: Lacaille
Editor: Enigma
QCer: Enix

Brought to you by:

Acrandria Scans
http://acrandria.net

Iskultrip Scans
http://iskultrip.marytaye.net

http://www.aerandria.net